

## PERHAPS WE ARE ALL LIFE'S STEP-CHILDREN?

### Parenting

*“Your children are not your children.*

*They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.*

*They come through you but not from you,  
and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love, but not your thoughts,  
for they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies, but not their souls,  
for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, even in your dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to  
make them like you.*

*for life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.*

*You are the bows from which your children as  
living arrows are sent forth.*

*The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the  
Infinite, and He bends you with His might that*

*His arrows might go swift and far.*

*Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;*

*for even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
so he loves the bow that is stable.*

*Kahlil Gibran, THE PROPHET, 1923*