

# Wishing Tree

"Today the seed is sown . . . the day will come when it shall rise a glorious tree . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

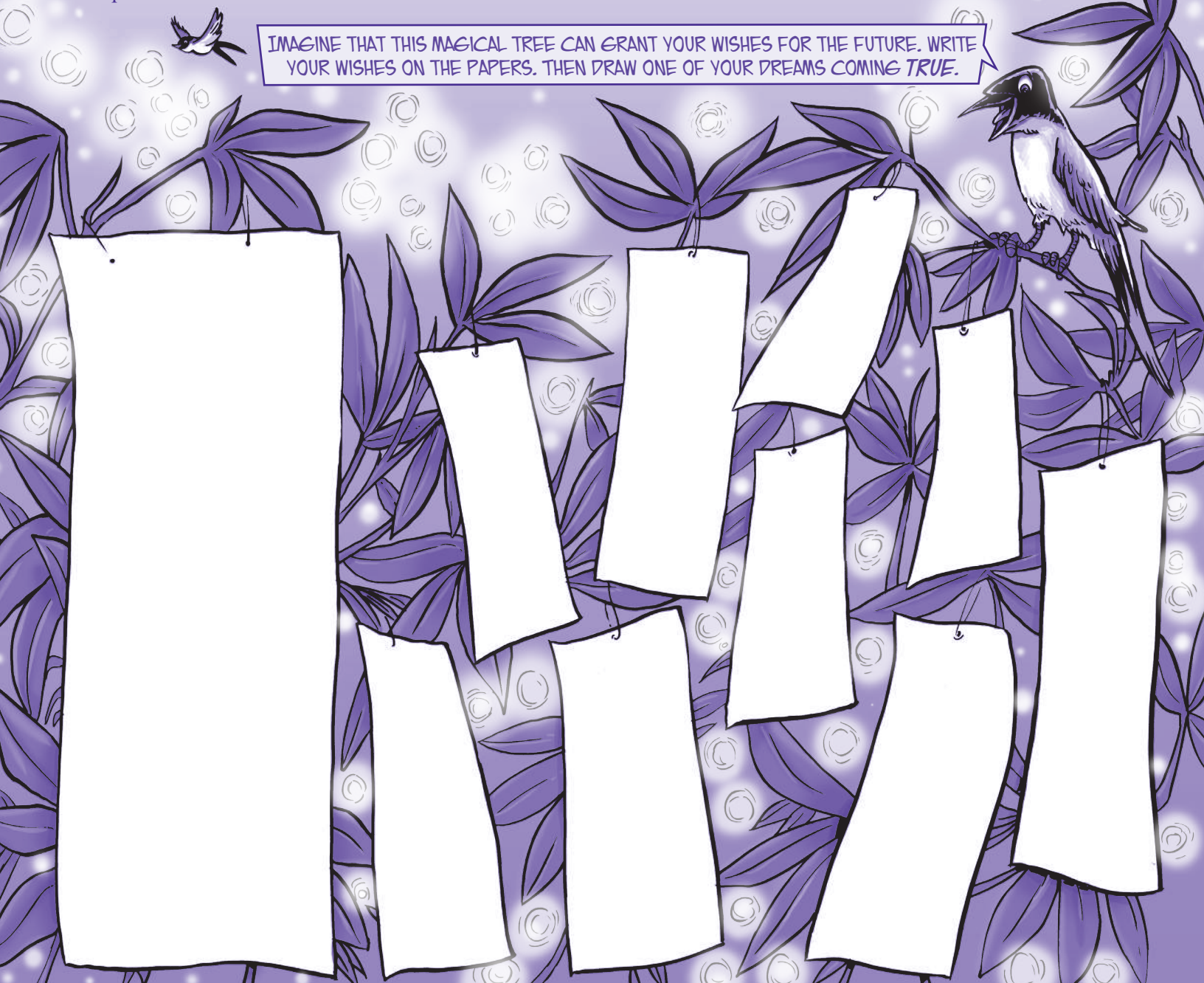
What do you wish for most? In Japan, people ponder that question at Tanabata, a festival inspired by an ancient Chinese legend.\* In one version of the story, there were two bright stars—a princess, who was a talented weaver, and her husband, a cowherd. They became so distracted by each other that the princess neglected her weaving of the clouds. Her husband ignored his cows, which went astray in the skies. The princess's father, the emperor, separated them by the Milky Way. The princess missed the cowherd and cried so much

that the emperor allowed them to meet once a year, when a flock of magpies formed a bridge for them to cross.

People celebrate Tanabata by writing wishes on colorful papers called *tanzaku*. The wishes are tied to bamboo branches.

It's fun to wish and dream, but we can't *just* wish and wait for things. It takes effort to turn our dreams into reality. What wishes would you write on a wishing tree? How would you take action to make your wishes come true?

IMAGINE THAT THIS MAGICAL TREE CAN GRANT YOUR WISHES FOR THE FUTURE. WRITE YOUR WISHES ON THE PAPERS. THEN DRAW ONE OF YOUR DREAMS COMING TRUE.



\* Tanabata is held in July or August, depending on the region.