***THE MAP –* A story**

Once, a father was looking after his children and trying to keep them entertained, but he wasn’t having too much success. It was a wet Saturday and the children were getting bored. They were starting to get on his nerves with their restlessness and their constant chattering.

But the man was inventive and suddenly he had an idea.

****He took down a magazine from the shelf and found a map of the world printed on one page. He tore this page out and proceeded to cut it up into small pieces. Jumbling up all the pieces he placed them in a pile on the floor, like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

Then he set his two young daughter the task of putting the map together again, thinking this would keep them quiet for a good long time, long enough for him to enjoy a cup of coffee and read his newspaper.

Imagine his amazement when five minutes later he came back to find the map neatly and accurately put back together again. “How did you manage to put it back together again so quickly?” he asked them.

“Oh, it was easy”, the younger girl replied. “You told us it was a map of the world, and when we looked at the pieces, at first we didn’t know where to begin… Impossible! … But then we realized on the other side there was a picture of a man, so we just put the man back together again. When we turned it over, the world had come back together again as well!”

“Yes, Dad”, chimed in her sister. “It’s ever so easy. If you put the man right, the world is OK.”

*Source unknown, adapted from a story by Margaret Silf in ‘One Hundred*

*Wisdom Stories from around the world’.*