

RAINBOW

In the classic movie, “Wizard of Oz”, Judy Garland sings the memorable “Somewhere over the Rainbow”. In a wistful manner, she longs for a special place that, her imagination, is “over the rainbow”. The place describes a Nirvana, Heaven, or some place that is perfect by her opinion.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high,
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby.
Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far
Behind me.
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me.

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly.
Birds fly over the rainbow.
Why then, oh why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?

In the day and time, such a place, however real or factual, is described as one's *happy place*. This figurative place can apply to any state or condition that makes you happiest, content or at peace. Children have a way or ability to find their happy place – even in the midst of an otherwise bleak situation. The simple things are sometimes sufficient to bring us to our happy place – to have a sense of security, peace, and even tranquility if just for a moment.

Dolly Parton, country music singer, advises that the rainbow (or the happy place) must also include the rain. For Dorothy, this adventure meant an ongoing confrontation with a wicked witch; and the added responsibility to help three characters acquire some aspect of their *happy place*. Her desire for this *happy place* was fraught with near death experience for both her and these three characters. As most of us know, the adventure ends with the intended happy place; for her, back home in the state of Kansas on her farm...where she began.

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"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

-- Dolly Parton

Where is your happy place? I hope that you have such a place, and on occasion, find yourself *somewhere over the rainbow*.

In a **WORD**