

There Are Two Seas in Palestine

*One is fresh and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks.
Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing
waters. Along its shores the children play, as children played when he was there. He loved
it. He could look across its silver surface when he spoke his parables. And on a rolling
plain not far away, he fed five thousand people.*

*The river Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills.
So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests;
and every kind of life is happier because it is there.*

The river Jordan flows on south into another sea.

*Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter.
Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its
waters, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.*

*What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties
the same good water into both.*

*This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every
drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal
measure. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted
into any generous impulse.
Every drop it gets, it keeps.*

*The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing.
It is named the Dead.
There are two kinds of people in the world.
There are two seas in Palestine.*