

## The Journey

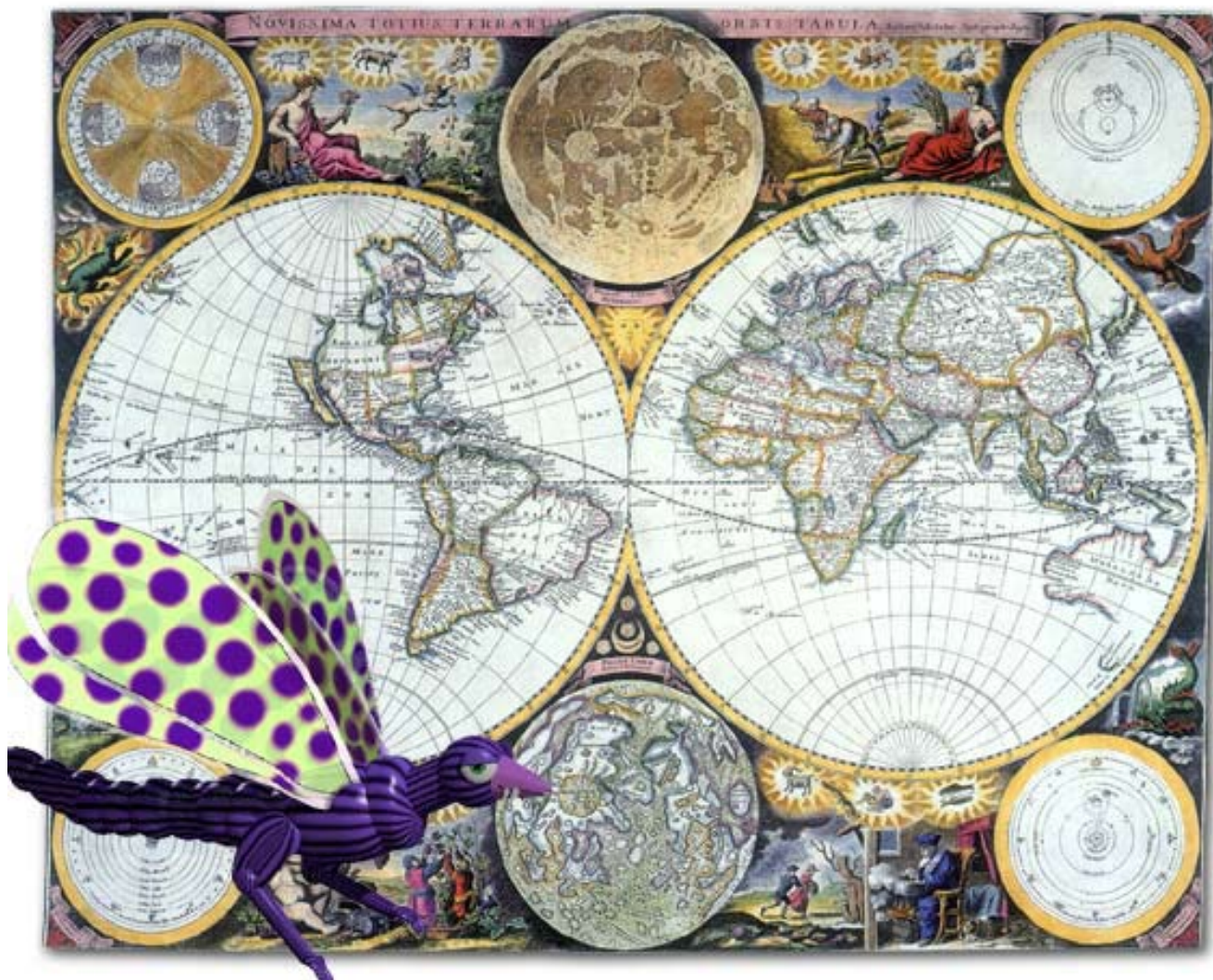
This is an Advent Calendar that tells the story of Fragen's first adventure. It has 24 pages, meant to be viewed one per day from December 1 through 24.

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## The Journey

One morning Fragen the dragonfly was sitting at breakfast. He felt a great restlessness. There seemed to be questions he couldn't answer - didn't even know how to ask. He looked around at his dining room (and the furniture he had bought from an interesting online company) and knew he'd never be able to stay at home with these feelings. He decided to go on a journey. Perhaps he'd find what he was looking for somewhere else in the world.



Fragen went into his closet and searched until he found his map of the world. This map had been in his family for generations, so he knew it would guide him well. He made his preparations to leave.





He began with a trip to the White Mountains. He stayed with a wise and dear friend, and gazed at the mountains from her front windows. He felt the peace all around him, but he grew tired of shoveling snow, and couldn't quell the restlessness. He knew he had to move on.



Fragen had not found what he wanted in the hills of New England, so he decided to try going down into the earth on his search. He went to Mammoth Cave. Another wise friend had spent some interesting time there and he thought maybe it would hold some answers - or questions - for him.

Alas, all he learned was that he was very unhappy being underground, and he burst out into the air with a gasp of relief and traveled on.



This time he made his way to the sea. He breathed the fresh salt air, consulted with his friends the seagulls, and yet another wise woman. He enjoyed this visit, but in time he grew weary of the continuous building going an around him and had to leave..so he got a ride on a sailboat and moved on again.





Perhaps under the sea he could find some answers. He had a delightful time with the fish and learned a great deal in their schools, but eventually became waterlogged and heavy and started having trouble with his ears..so he moved away from the sea.



Fragen spent a long time learning from the ancient ruins in Mexico. He certainly dried out after his long underwater sojourn. It was very educational, and his Spanish became quite fluent, but in the end he longed to hear English spoken again.





This time he stayed in an old castle in England. It seemed that he kept slipping back in time, and found the knights and ladies very entertaining, but he knew they were just pretending to be living in the middle ages. He learned to ride a giant warhorse, and even journeyed to see the standing stones. But he eventually had to leave here and travel on.

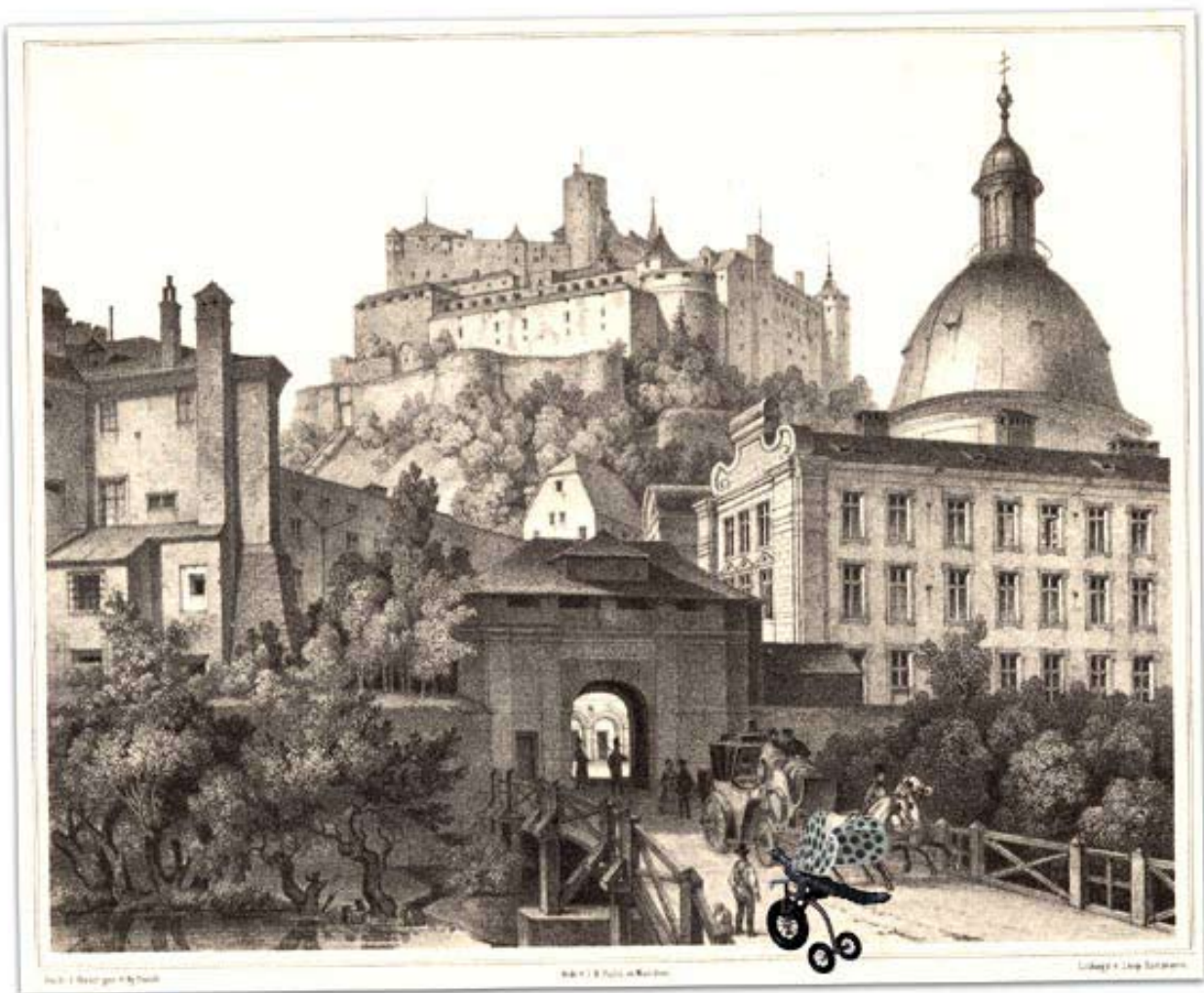


In Switzerland he rode mountain trikes and climbed and ate cheese and chocolate. He loved the rugged beauty and the contrasts - steep rocky peaks covered in snow and meadows filled with flowers. He thought he would stay here for a while.



But all of a sudden he realized that he had truly gone back in time. Everything looked different! Where were the cars? How could he get along without TV? His cell phone was useless! How did he get here? How could he get back to his own time? He set off on a long train trip, hoping to find a way out. At least he had a question! (Who were those guys wrestling on the edge of the precipice anyway?)



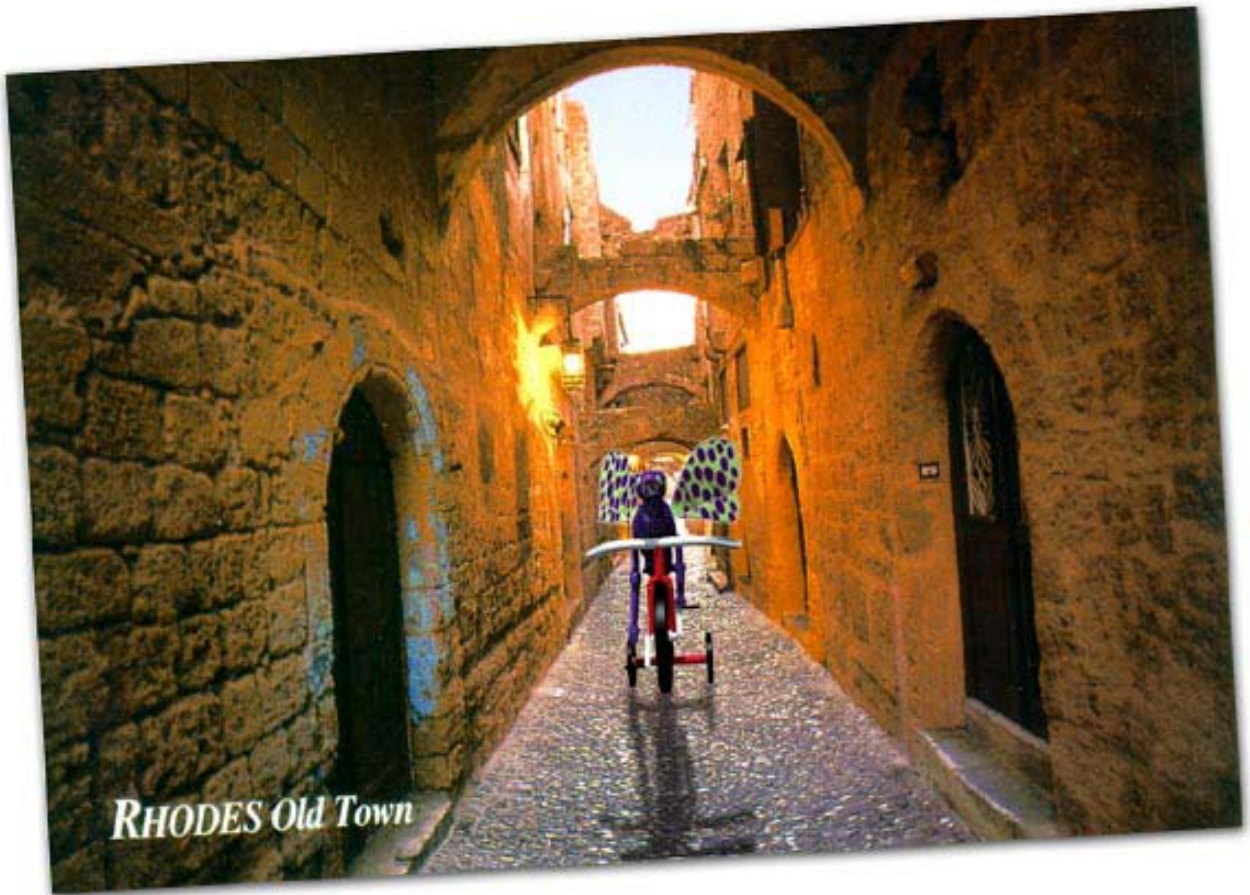


Fragen finally came to Salzburg. He wandered around the city, listening to Mozart, drinking beer and wine, and alternately trying to solve his dilemma and trying to forget it. One day, while in the castle he wandered through a door he had never seen before, and found himself back in his own time! He was overjoyed, and ran to find out how long he'd been gone. Only a week! Whew, what a relief!



When he left Salzburg he moved to the east. He had heard from some friends about Latvia, so he flew in for a whirlwind visit. He stayed longer than he expected, but in the end went south again.





Fragen went south to Greece and studied the ancient knowledge of the Greeks.  
He saw the Colossus in his mind's eye, and felt the wisdom of the ages, just as his  
friends who had been there told him he would.  
In time, however, he left, and traveled further to the East.





In Korea he studied in the temples, breathed the cherry blossoms, and felt a longing to hear his own language again. He rode his trike to the boat and sailed for the west coast of the US.



Dang! When he got off the boat he was in another one of those time-warps!  
Fragen was at Crater Lake, but it was some other era. How did this keep happening? I guess he was searching so hard that he sometimes pushed too hard and broke through some sort of time-space barrier. Oh well, if he just kept moving he usually came out of it...so he pushed north.



Ahhh! Here he was in Canada, and back in his own time. He never knew quite how or when he switched back and forth. It was very disconcerting. But he decided not to worry, it was no problem. He'd just enjoy himself. Maybe he'd see some new creatures in Fairy Meadows.



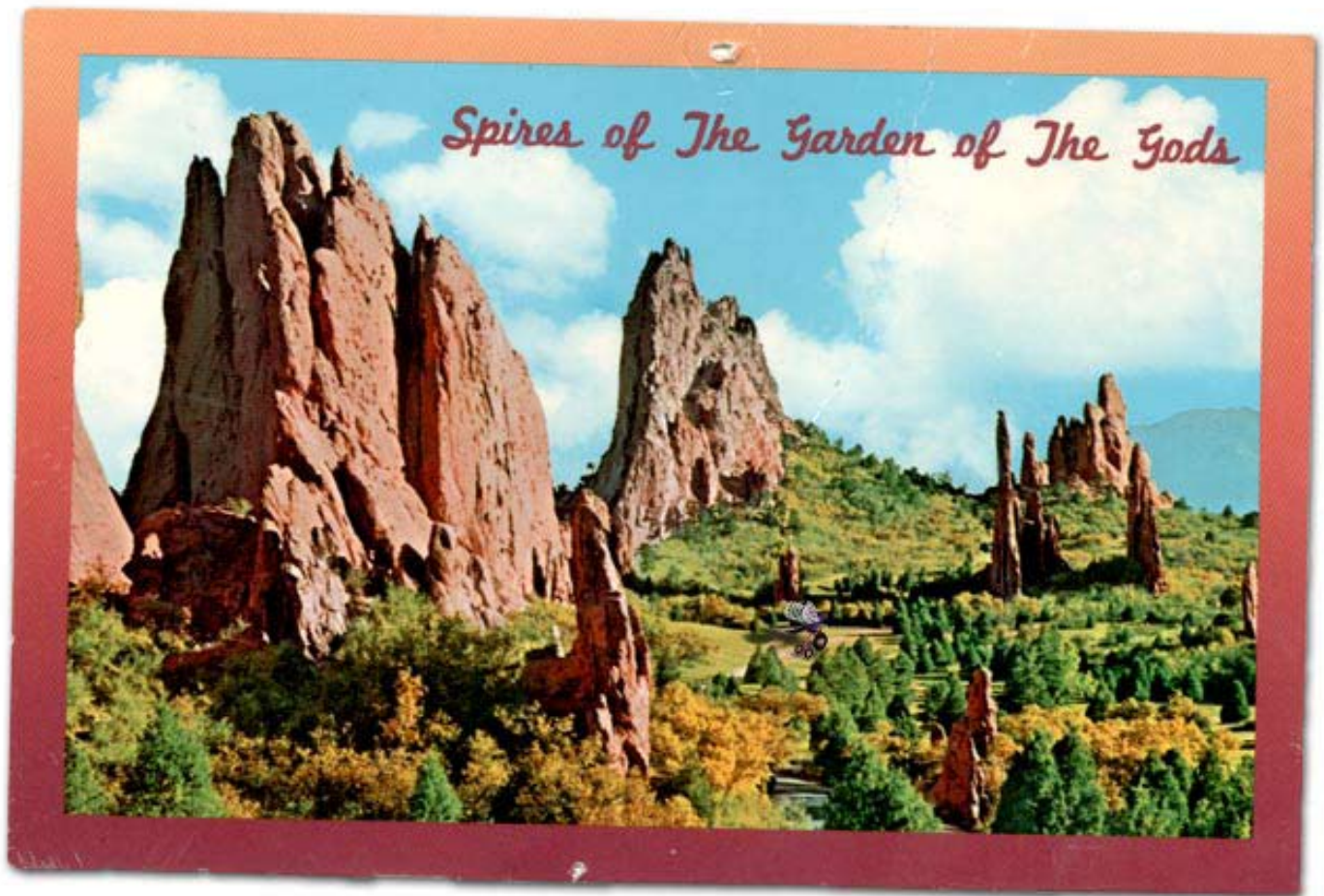


Riding down a road in Utah in the fall he passed through a beautiful Aspen grove. He gazed around and let the beauty wash over him. But then he thought "It's funny how much taller and straighter these trees grow here - compared to the scruffy Poplars back East." Perhaps it was time to start for home. This was a great adventure, but maybe.....



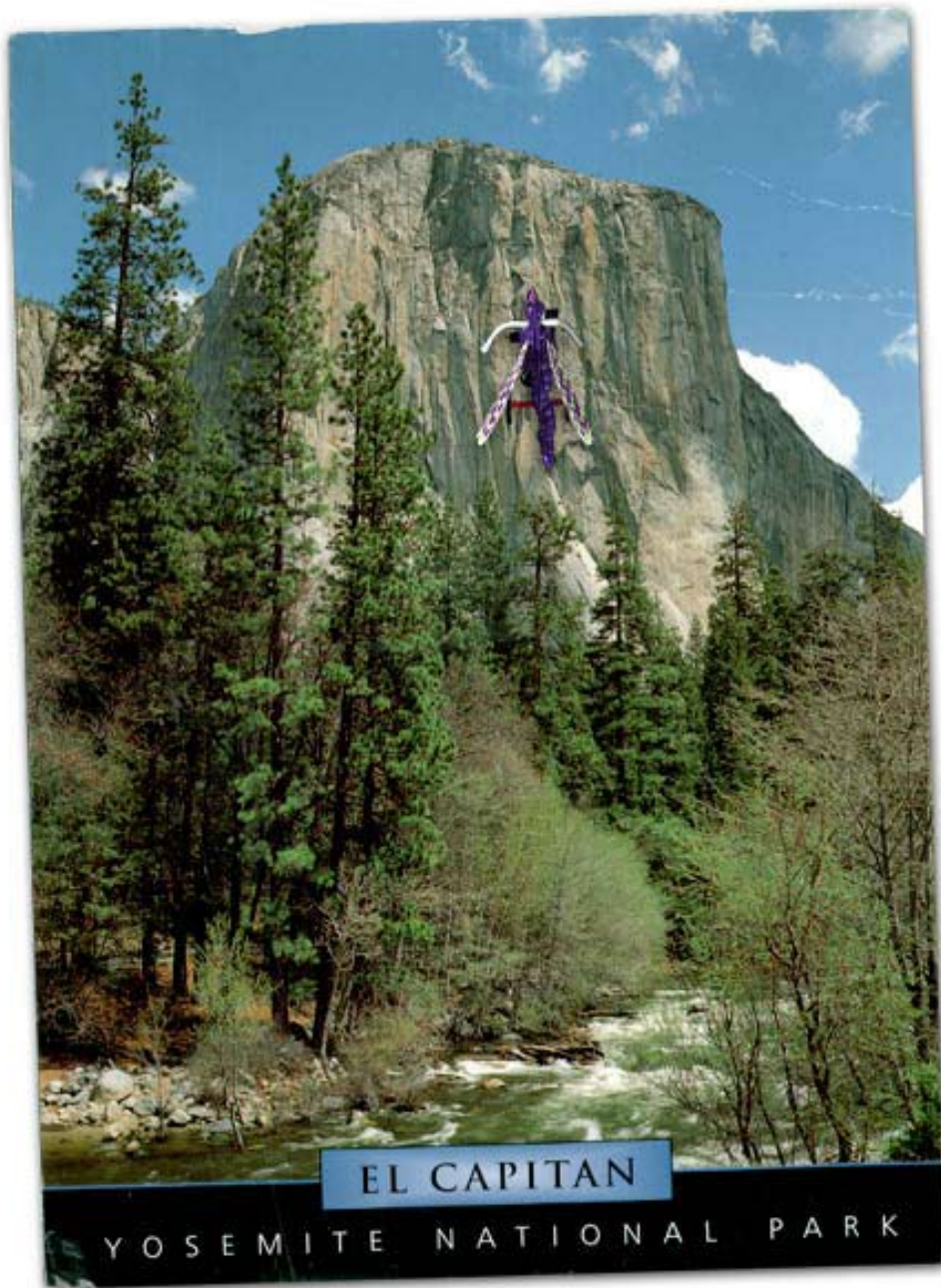
In Zion National Park he studied the rocks, with their amazing formations and timeless feel. It is amazing, the variety of nature. Hot, dry, dusty and rocky, and around the corner flowing streams filled with life.



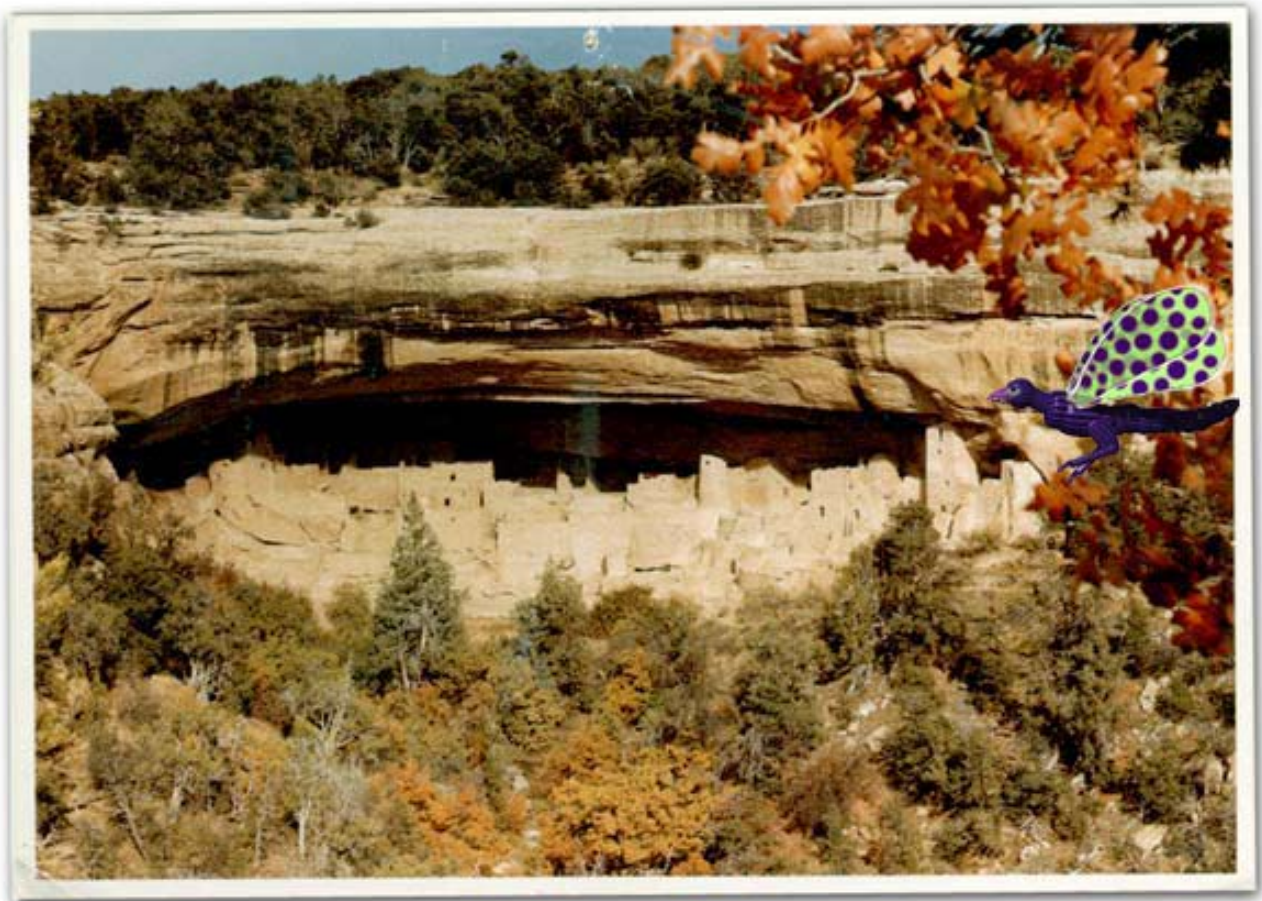


Good Grief! Here he was at the Spires of the Gods. In another time again!  
Wowee, this was making him dizzy. He'd better not try any climbing. You  
need your balance when you climb!





Zap! Back in the present! He was so relieved he decided to go mountain triking again..right up El Cap!



He flew in to Mesa Verde and studied the vanished Anasazi, and thought about the rangers he'd read about. It was truly beautiful, but he began to feel a strong need for home.



# Poland Spring

*Maine*



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Not only did he time travel, but he ended up in an advertisement! What is this? Has he become mere ink on paper? Could he possibly be just a virtual dragonfly?





This is amazing! Now he's inside a painting! What gives? The confusion was too much. Fragen the dragonfly needed to clap the heels of his ruby slippers together and wish for home. He wasn't restless any more....he just longed for home.



AAAAAHHHHHH!

It worked. All of a sudden he rode his trike into his own back yard, and found a bunch of his friends waiting for him. His journey had been wonderful. He had learned an amazing amount. He had amazing experiences, wandering in and out of time and space .. but now he knew that being home, at peace, with his friends and family was what made him most happy..it was his center, his spirit, his real self. And it was just in time for Christmas, too.

(can you imagine the presents Fragen brought back??)