

Bahá'u'lláh

The Glory of God



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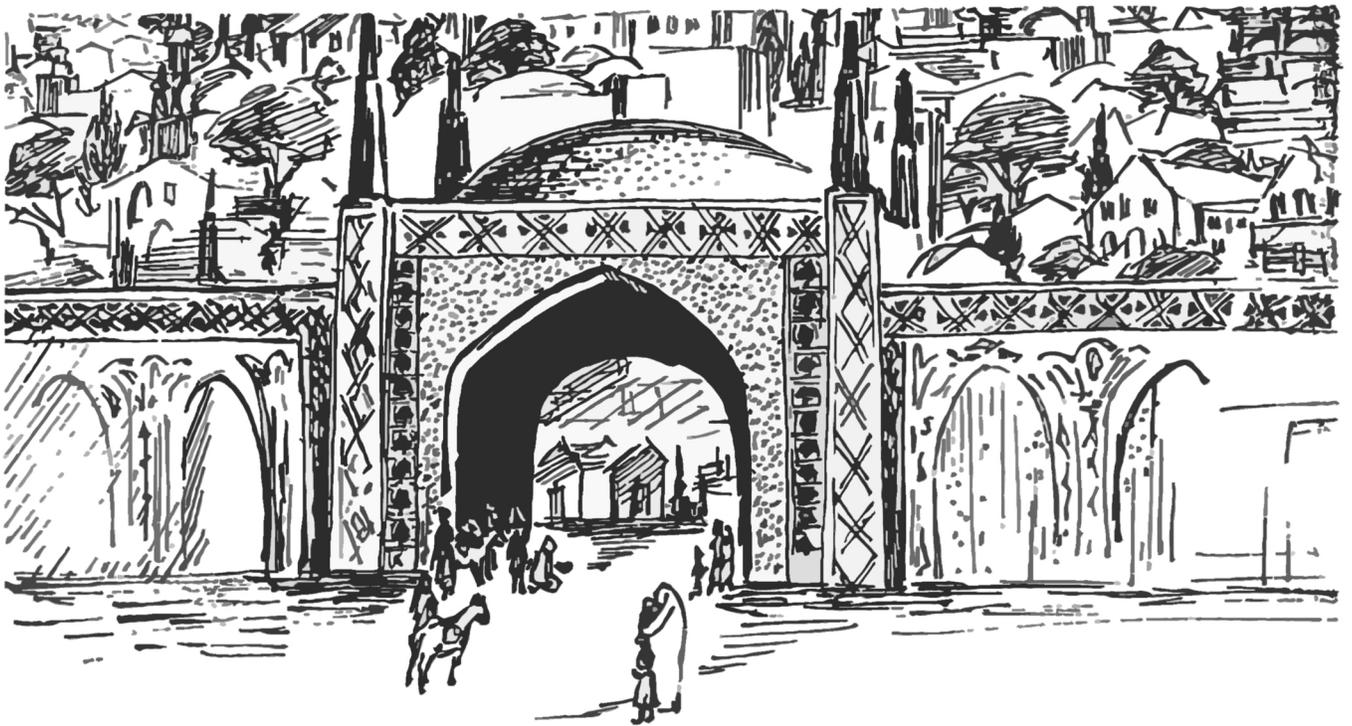


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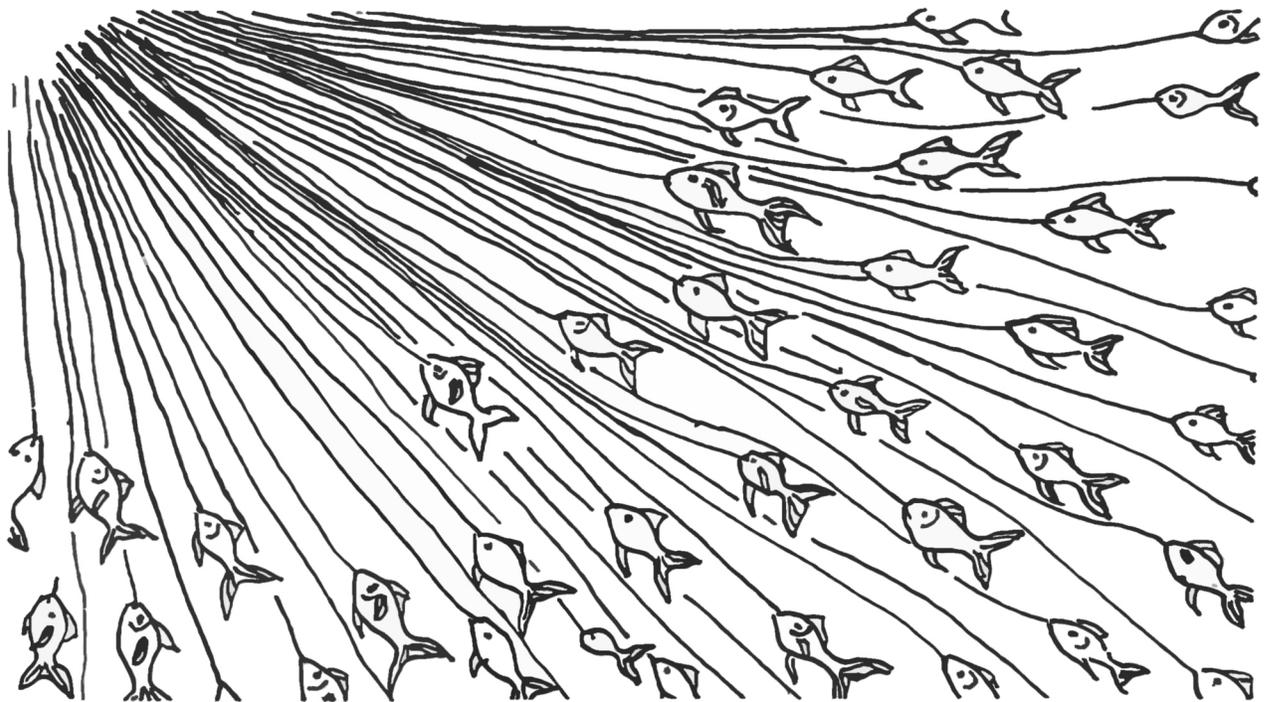
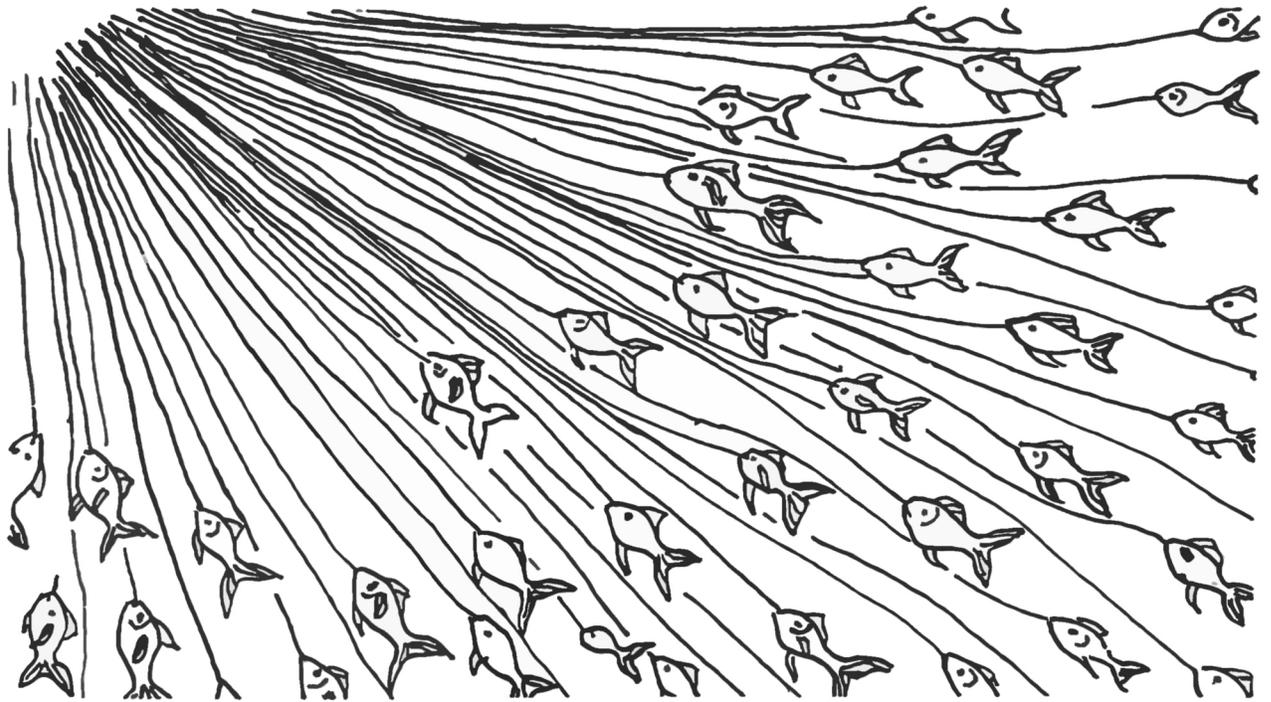


One night, His father had a dream in which he saw Bahá'u'lláh swimming in an ocean. The light radiating from His body illuminated the waters. His long black hair floated in all directions, and a multitude of fish followed Him, each holding on to the end of one hair. He moved freely and unhindered. This dream was one of the many indications of the great destiny that awaited Bahá'u'lláh.



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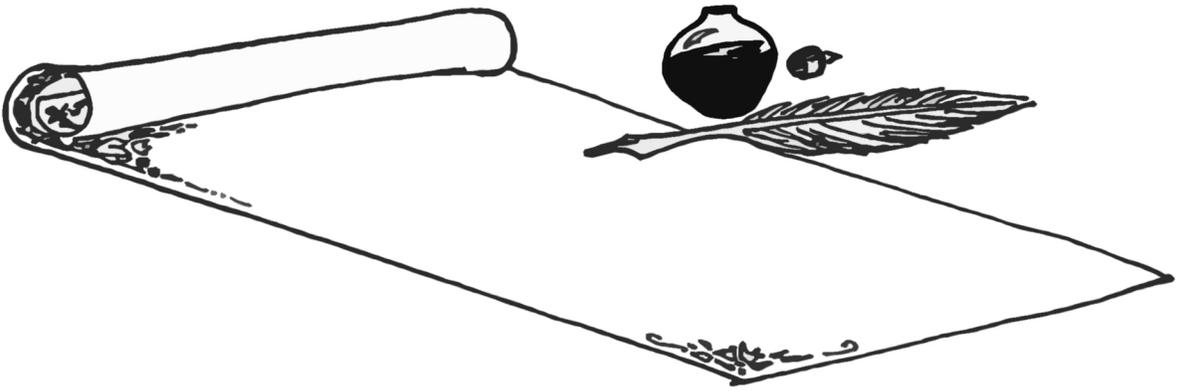
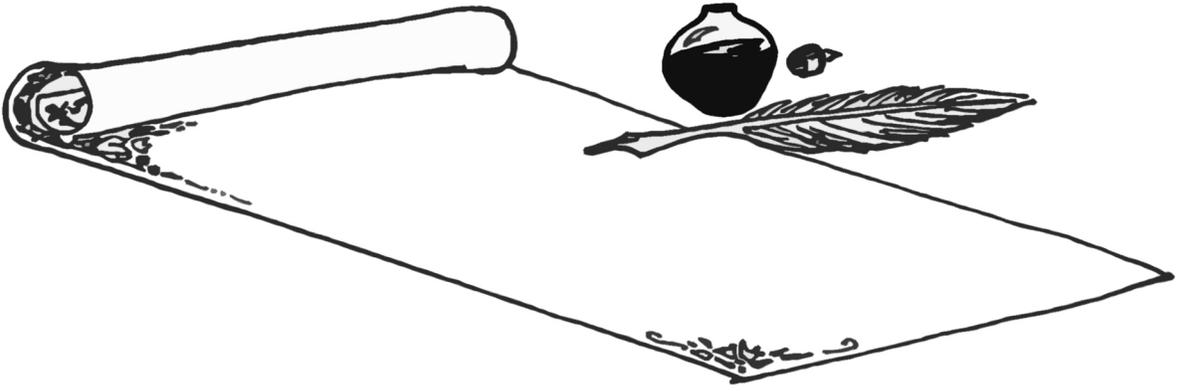


When he was 27 years old, Bahá'u'lláh received a scroll of Writings from the Báb, the new Messenger of God, Who was preparing the people for the coming of the Promise of All ages. Bahá'u'lláh accepted the Báb's Message and became one of His most enthusiastic supporters.



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The authorities, unwilling to accept the Truth proclaimed by the Báb, set out to persecute those who believed in Him, and thus began the sufferings of Bahá'u'lláh. In the year 1852, He was arrested and put in chains in one of the most dreadful prisons of Tihrán.



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In Baghdád, the fame of Bahá'u'lláh's wisdom spread in all directions. People of every background crowded to His home, seeking His help and advice. The government, which was afraid of Bahá'u'lláh's influence, decided to banish Him even farther from His homeland.



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Before leaving Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh spent twelve days in a garden outside the city, where streams of visitors came to bid Him farewell. In this garden, Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed that He was the Manifestation of God for this Day. For centuries to come, the period of 21 April to 2 May will be celebrated as the Festival of Ridvan, the anniversary of the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh of His world-embracing Mission.



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21 April 1863



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of the Ottoman Empire



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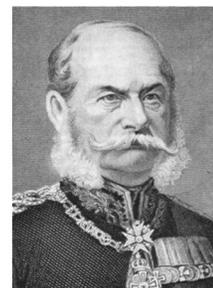
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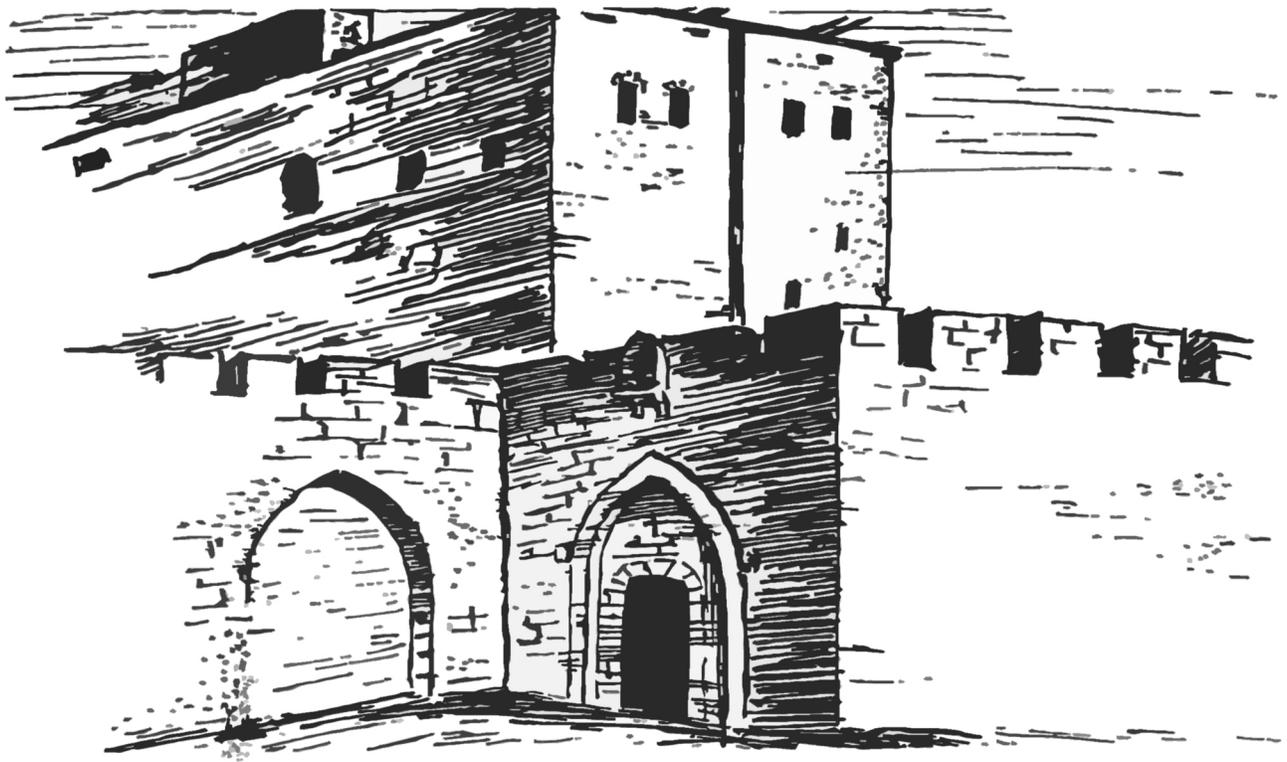
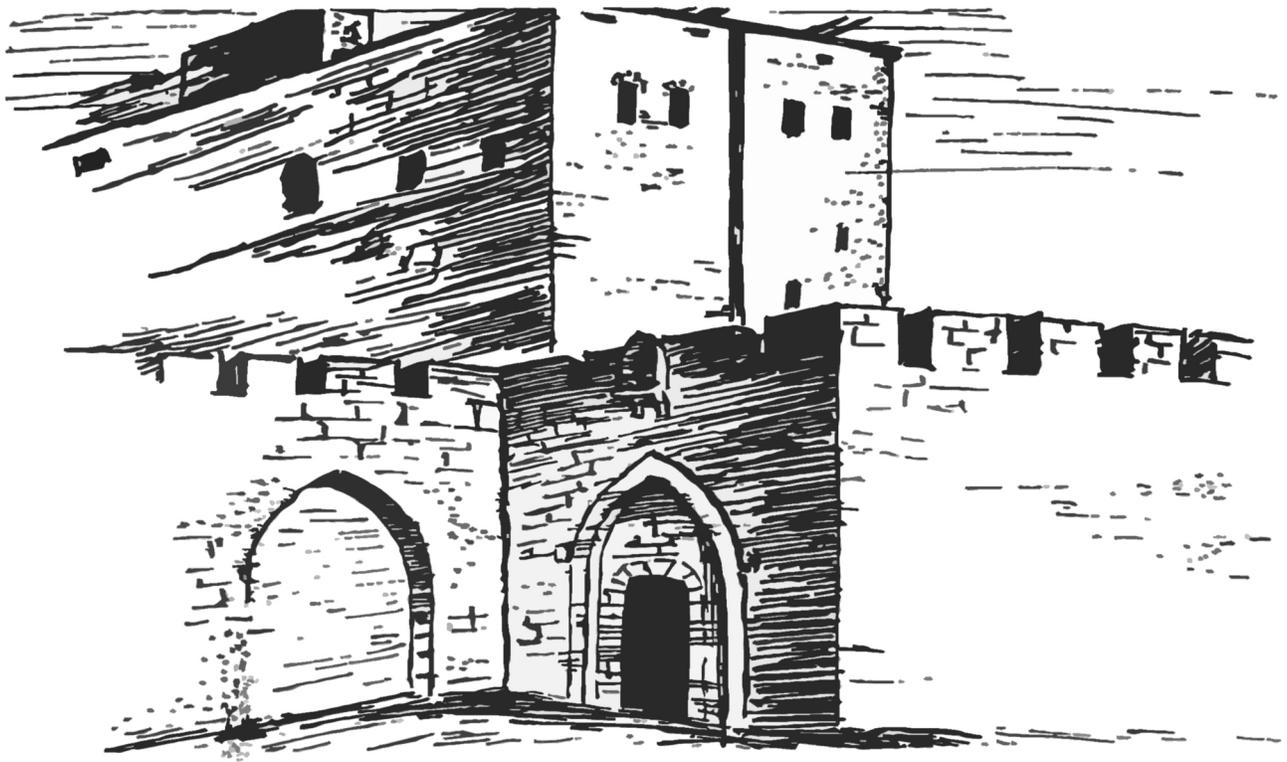


Once again, Bahá'u'lláh's fame spread among the inhabitants of the region, and the government decided to banish Him even farther away to the prison-city of 'Akká. This was the prison to which the worst criminals and agitators of the land were sent, never to be heard of again.



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The conditions of imprisonment were extremely severe. Some of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh traveled great distances to 'Akká, but were not allowed to enter His presence. They could only catch a glimpse of Him from afar as He waved to them from the window of His prison-cell.



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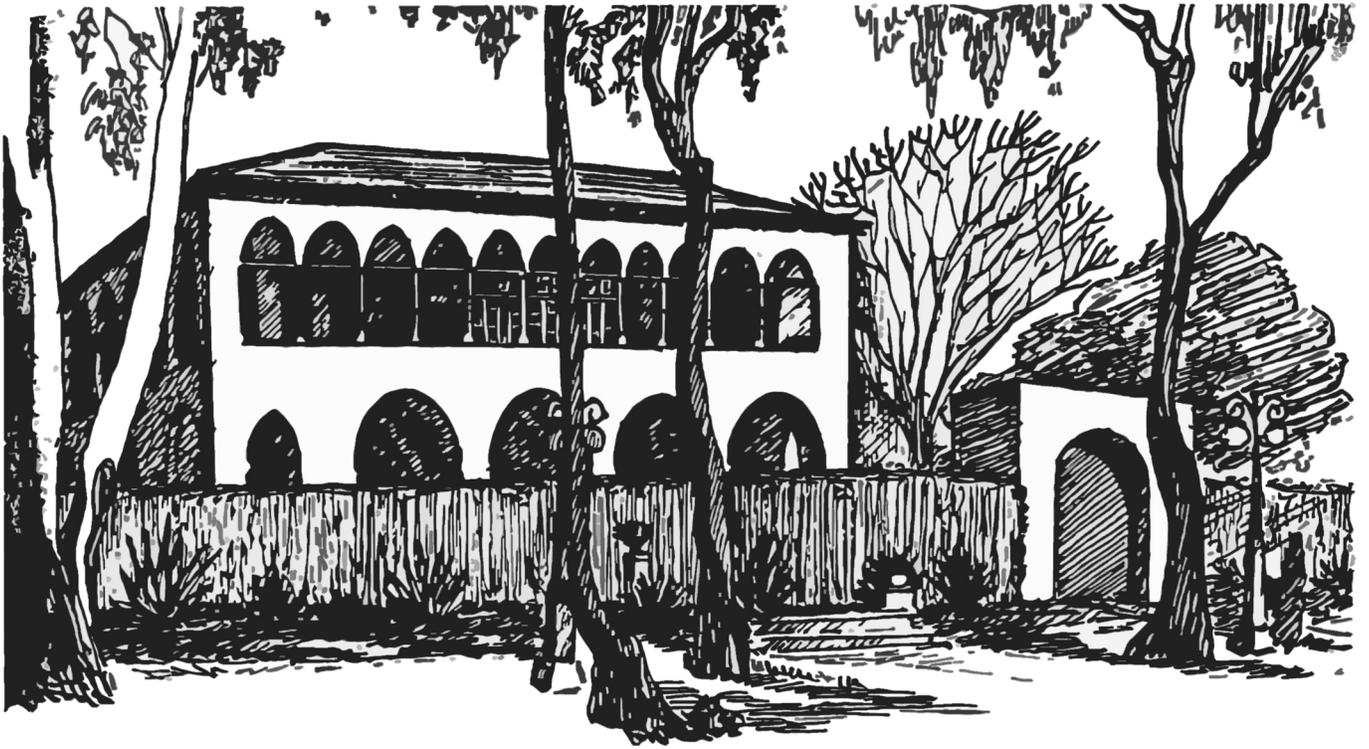
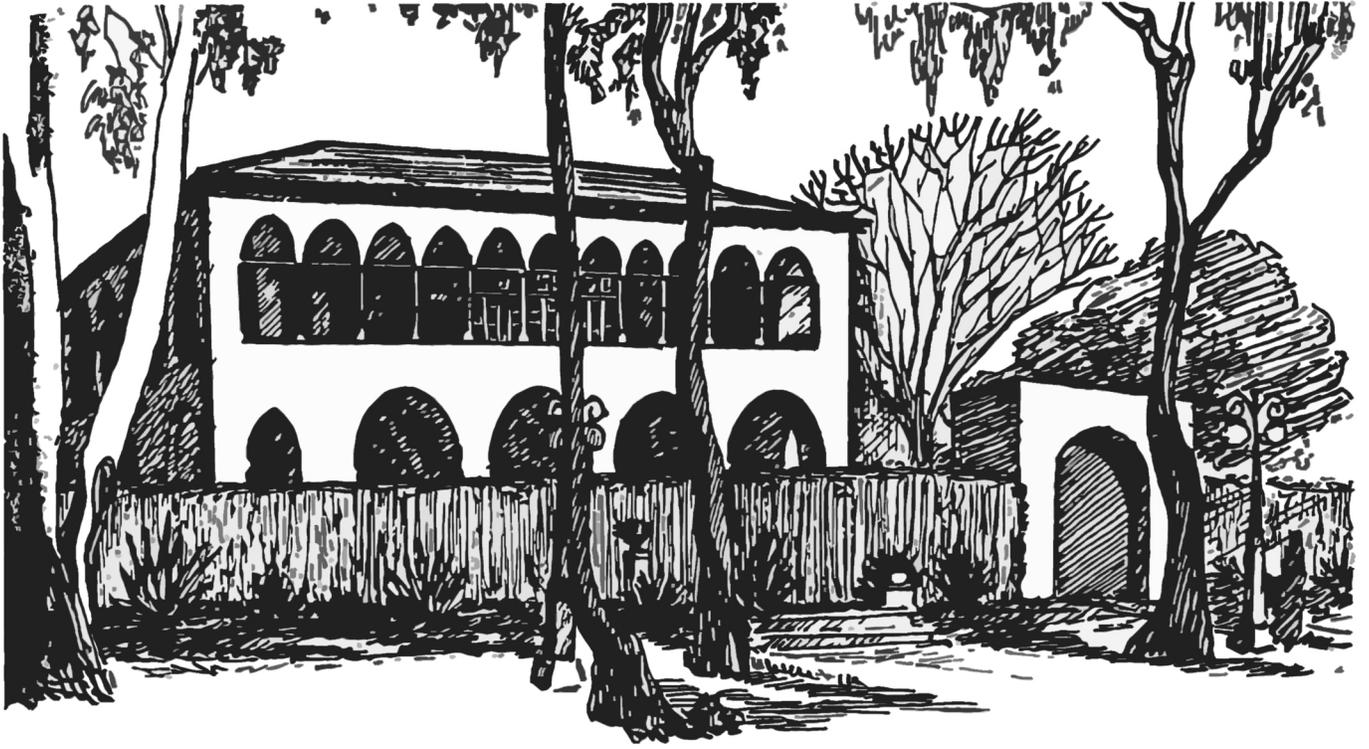


Gradually conditions improved as the power of Bahá'u'lláh's words and deeds conquered the hearts of high and low alike. During the last years of His life, He lived in the Mansion of Bahjí outside the city walls. In 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh revealed volumes of guidance for humanity, including the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, His Most Holy Book.



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In May 1892 Bahá'u'lláh passed away. His resting place in Bahjí, now surrounded by beautiful gardens, is the most Holy Spot on earth. 'Akká and the nearby city of Haifa are the spiritual and administrative center of the Bahá'í community which is striving to bring about the world Order of Bahá'u'lláh and the prosperity of humankind.



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