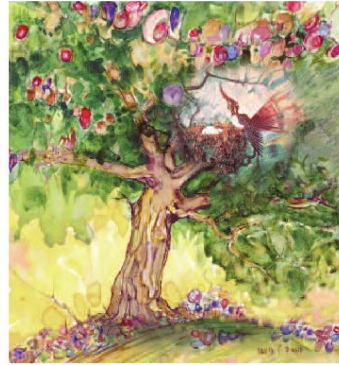


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures

Bahá'u'lláh

Volume One



These stories are lovingly provided to download as a convenience to teachers or communities otherwise unable to acquire the book. Each book in this storybook series also includes an appendix with questions for discussion and reflection, a glossary of words and phrases used in the stories, a bibliography, and an index.

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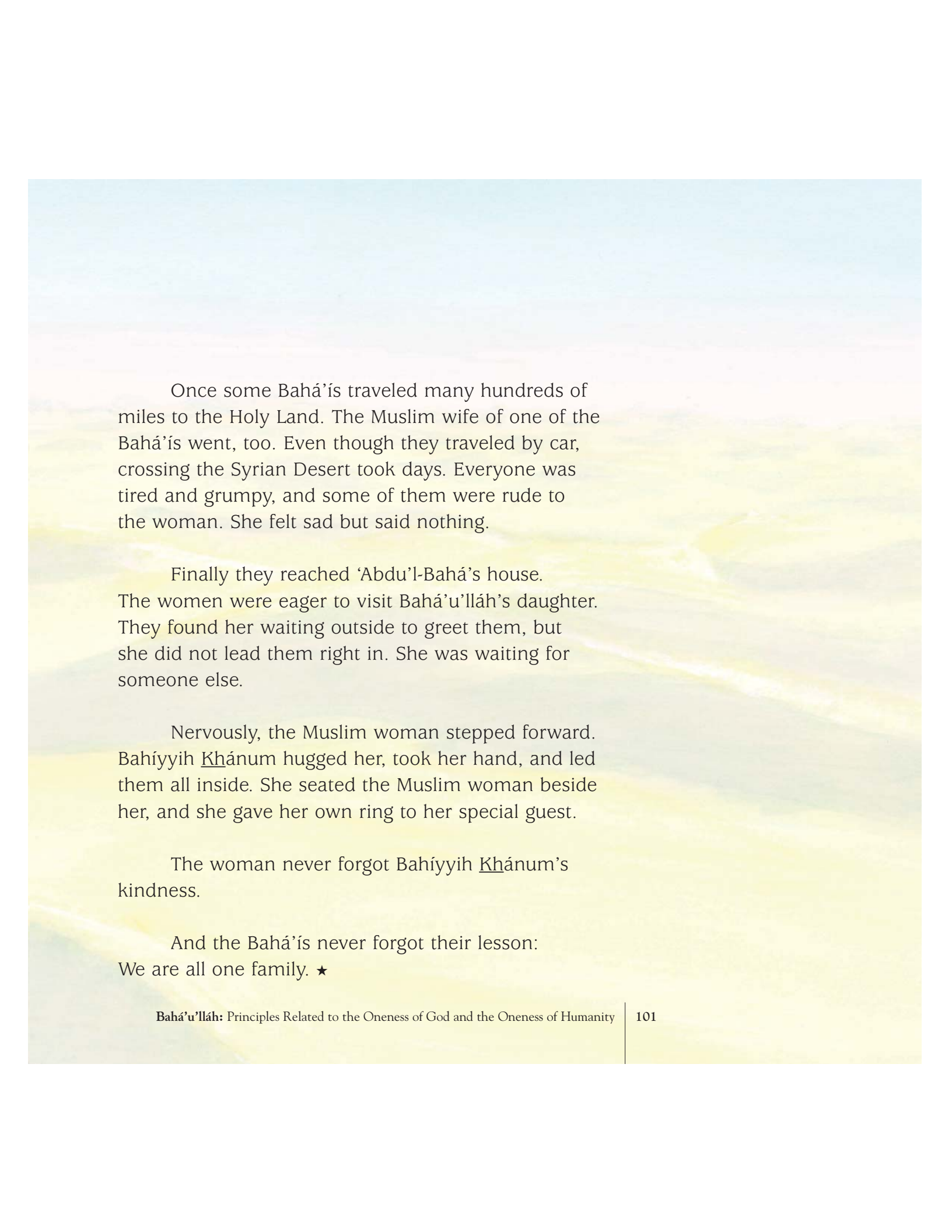
A Journey Across a Desert

Written by Gail Radley
Illustrated by Carrie Kneisler

If you crossed a hot, dry desert with little to drink, think how happy a cool fountain at the end would make you. This is how happy ‘Abdu’l-Bahá says Bahá’ís should feel when they meet each other. Bahá’u’lláh’s daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, understood this.

When Bahíyyih Khánum was young and living in Persia, her Father was put in prison because of His religious beliefs. No matter how hard life was, Bahíyyih Khánum and her family followed and served Him. When Bahá’u’lláh died, Bahíyyih Khánum did all she could to help ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá died, she looked after Shoghi Effendi. They often called her by the title Bahá’u’lláh gave her, the Greatest Holy Leaf.

The Greatest Holy Leaf didn’t just look after her Family—or even just the Bahá’ís. She knew that Bahá’u’lláh wanted her to think of everyone as one family.



Once some Bahá'ís traveled many hundreds of miles to the Holy Land. The Muslim wife of one of the Bahá'ís went, too. Even though they traveled by car, crossing the Syrian Desert took days. Everyone was tired and grumpy, and some of them were rude to the woman. She felt sad but said nothing.

Finally they reached 'Abdu'l-Bahá's house. The women were eager to visit Bahá'u'lláh's daughter. They found her waiting outside to greet them, but she did not lead them right in. She was waiting for someone else.

Nervously, the Muslim woman stepped forward. Bahíyyih Khánum hugged her, took her hand, and led them all inside. She seated the Muslim woman beside her, and she gave her own ring to her special guest.

The woman never forgot Bahíyyih Khánum's kindness.

And the Bahá'ís never forgot their lesson:
We are all one family. ★