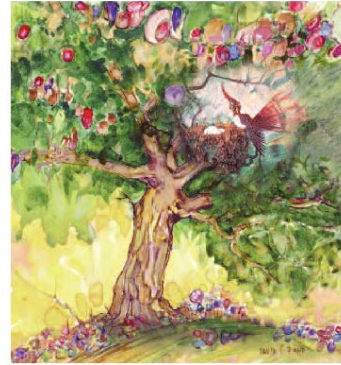


The following story is from the book

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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Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education • Stories
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A watercolor illustration of a prison cell. The cell is dark and confined, with a single window featuring vertical bars. The window looks out onto a bright, colorful landscape with green hills and a blue sky. The overall style is soft and painterly.

The Prison and the Garden

Written by Suzan Nadimi

Illustrated by Nina Scott

Bahá'u'lláh was born in a beautiful mansion lined with trees and flowering bushes. As a young boy, He spent His summers in a palace set among green mountains and valleys. But when He grew older, He was made a prisoner in a small dark cell with two narrow windows.

For two years, Bahá'u'lláh walked back and forth in His prison cell. Bahá'u'lláh then moved into a little white house, and for six more years, His only exercise was to pace the floor of His room.

He did not gaze at trees and flowering bushes. He did not look at green mountains and valleys. He paced back and forth, back and forth, over and over again.

When the prison doors opened, Bahá'u'lláh was free to live in a mansion with lovely trees and oranges like balls of fire.

In those free years, Bahá'u'lláh often asked to see His grandchildren before they went to bed. “Let the dear children come in, and have some dessert,” He would say.

Some nights He would tell His grandchildren, “Now children, tomorrow you shall come with Me for a picnic to the Ridván.” On those nights the children’s hearts were so filled with joy, they could hardly sleep.

Ridván was a garden filled with flowering shrubs, sweet-smelling herbs, orange trees, and a splashing fountain. Together with His family and followers, Bahá'u'lláh would go to Ridván and walk among pomegranate trees, white rosebushes, and bright red geraniums. He rested on a bench under the shade of a mulberry tree.

One day you might see the spot where Bahá'u'lláh sat on the bench under the mulberry tree. It is covered with beautiful potted plants. You might imagine Bahá'u'lláh sitting on the bench, surrounded by His grandchildren, saying, “Now children, tomorrow you shall come with Me for a picnic to the Ridván.” ★

