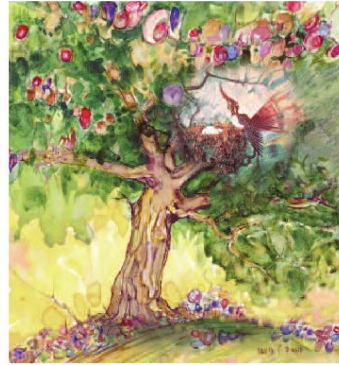


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures

Bahá'u'lláh

Volume One



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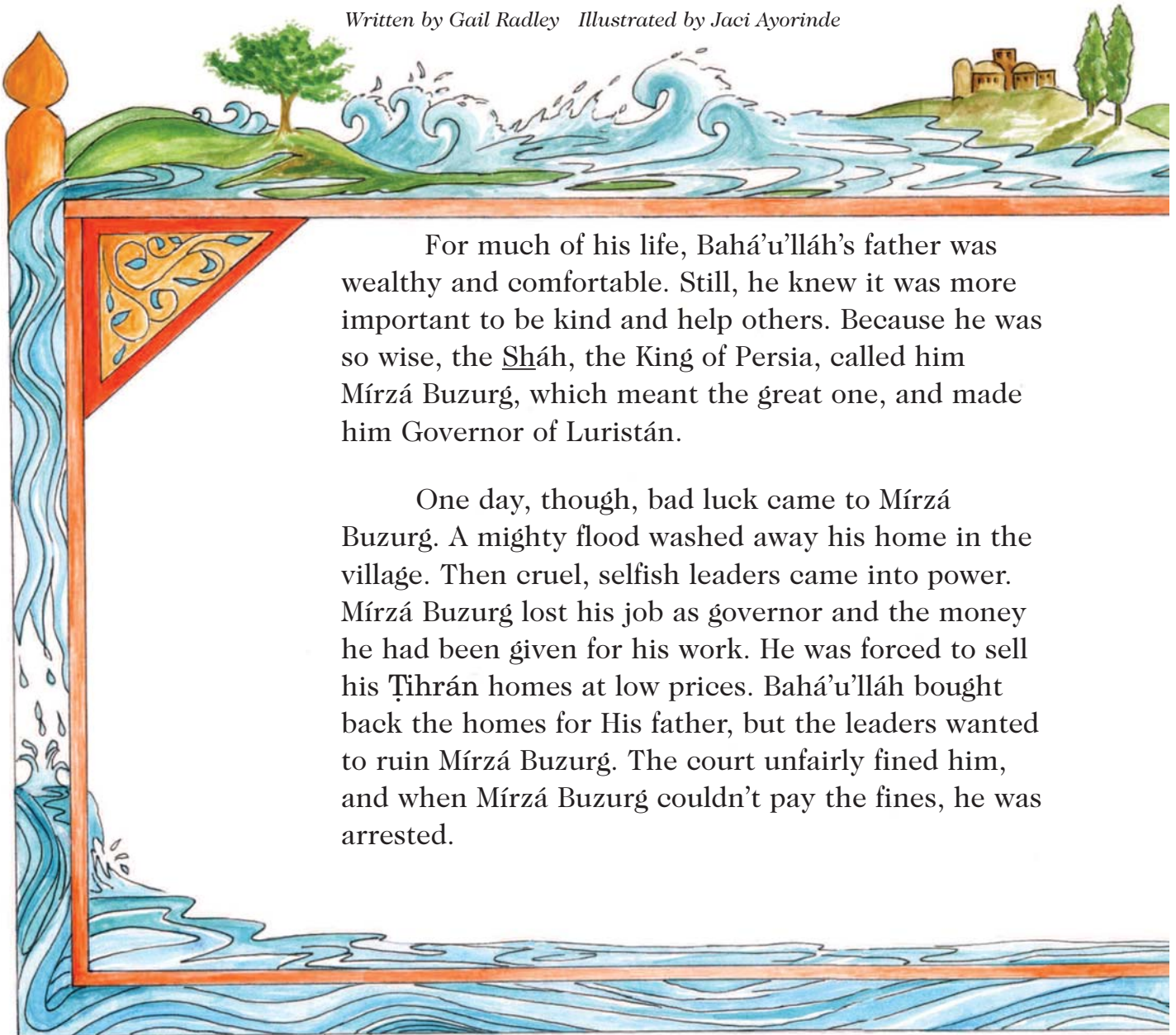
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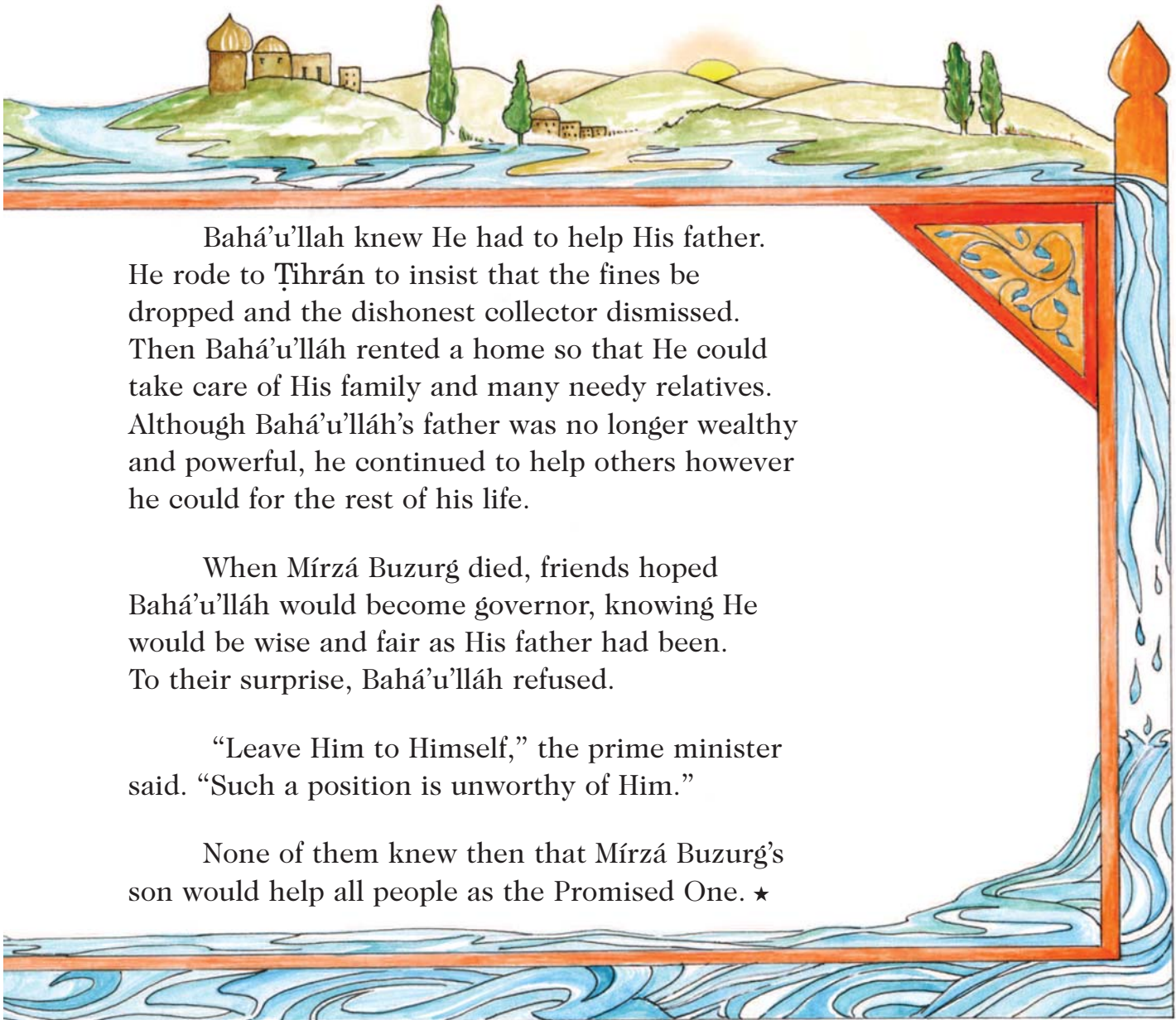
Lives of Service

Written by Gail Radley Illustrated by Jaci Ayorinde



For much of his life, Bahá'u'lláh's father was wealthy and comfortable. Still, he knew it was more important to be kind and help others. Because he was so wise, the Sháh, the King of Persia, called him Mírzá Buzurg, which meant the great one, and made him Governor of Luristán.

One day, though, bad luck came to Mírzá Buzurg. A mighty flood washed away his home in the village. Then cruel, selfish leaders came into power. Mírzá Buzurg lost his job as governor and the money he had been given for his work. He was forced to sell his Tīhrán homes at low prices. Bahá'u'lláh bought back the homes for His father, but the leaders wanted to ruin Mírzá Buzurg. The court unfairly fined him, and when Mírzá Buzurg couldn't pay the fines, he was arrested.



Bahá'u'llah knew He had to help His father. He rode to Tīhrán to insist that the fines be dropped and the dishonest collector dismissed. Then Bahá'u'lláh rented a home so that He could take care of His family and many needy relatives. Although Bahá'u'lláh's father was no longer wealthy and powerful, he continued to help others however he could for the rest of his life.

When Mírzá Buzurg died, friends hoped Bahá'u'lláh would become governor, knowing He would be wise and fair as His father had been. To their surprise, Bahá'u'lláh refused.

“Leave Him to Himself,” the prime minister said. “Such a position is unworthy of Him.”

None of them knew then that Mírzá Buzurg's son would help all people as the Promised One. ★