

The following story is from the book

*The Central Figures*

*Bahá'u'lláh*

*Volume Two*



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.

These books may be purchased from the Louhelen Bahá'í School bookstore for \$15.25 each, including shipping in the United States, or \$23.00 to most international locations. Email: [Louhelen@usbnc.org](mailto:Louhelen@usbnc.org) for details.

Graphic Design by Pepper Peterson Oldziey

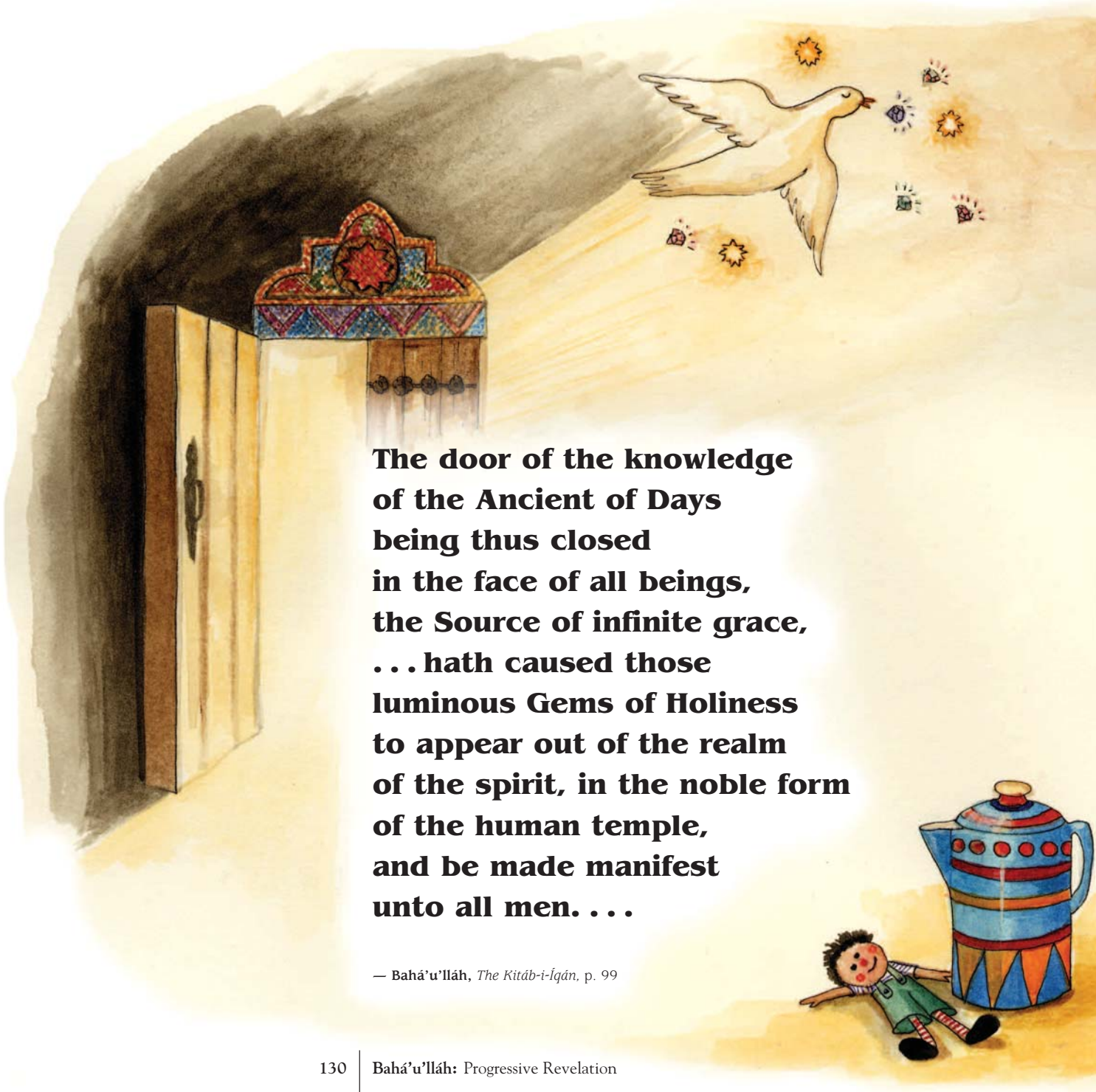
Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette, Illinois 60091-2886  
Copyright © 2002 by the National Spiritual Assembly  
of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America  
All rights reserved  
Published 2002  
05 04 03 02 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America

Illustrations: cover © 2002 David S. Ruhe; pp. 3–4, 12, 40–44 Courtesy of the Audio Visual Department of the Bahá'í World Center, Haifa, Israel; p. 23 Courtesy of the National Bahá'í Archives, Wilmette, Illinois; pp. 1–3, 7–11, 15–17, 19, 21–22 © 1979 Pepper Oldziey; pp. 4–6, 14, 20 © 1999 Pepper Oldziey; pp. 18, 24 © 2002 Haydar Barnes; pp. 25–28 © 2002 Ed Phillips; pp. 46–49, 51 © 2002 Cam Herth; pp. 45, 52–60 © 2002 Marilyn Lindsley; pp. 61–78 © 2002 Carla Trimble; pp. 79–94 © 2002 Beth Farkas; pp. 113–128 © 2002 Cindy Pacileo; p. 114 © 2002 Carl Cordini; pp. 129–146 © 2002 Winifred Barnum Newman; p. 168 © 2002 Majid Nolley and Omid Nolley; pp. 169–172 © 2002 Leona Hosack. All other illustrations © 2002 National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States.

**Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education • Stories**  
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States


  
**Bahá'í Publishing Trust**  
Wilmette, Illinois



**The door of the knowledge  
of the Ancient of Days  
being thus closed  
in the face of all beings,  
the Source of infinite grace,  
... hath caused those  
luminous Gems of Holiness  
to appear out of the realm  
of the spirit, in the noble form  
of the human temple,  
and be made manifest  
unto all men. . . .**

— Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 99





# A Never- Ending Stack of Lego<sup>TM</sup> Bricks

Written by Joseph Sheppherd  
Illustrated by Winifred Barnum-Newman

Wendi helped Kim get her kids out the door and on the school bus so the two sisters could finally have time to talk without the interruptions of parenting. After pushing some toys to one side of the kitchen table to clear a spot for themselves, they sat down and finished their coffee. They wanted to continue the conversation they had started over breakfast. “Now, what were we talking about?” asked Kim.

“You were saying that Bahá’ís believe that Jesus wasn’t the only One, that God had sent others like Him,” Wendi reminded her. “How can this be?” Kim could see that this was something Wendi had difficulty understanding about her sister’s new religion. She was trying to find a different way of explaining it when she noticed the toys.

“What can you tell me about Lego bricks?” asked Kim, sliding a piece over in front of her sister.



<sup>TM</sup> Lego is the trademark of the Lego Company.



“What?” responded Wendi. She picked it up and looked at her sister in puzzlement.

“Let me try an analogy,” said Kim. “What can you tell me about that brick?”

“Well, you build things with them.” Wendi still looked puzzled. Kim pushed the pile of Lego bricks farther to one side and put a dishtowel over them so they couldn’t be seen.

“Forget about them. Say you only have the one. Describe the one in your hand,” requested Kim.

“Well Sis, it’s red,” replied Wendi.

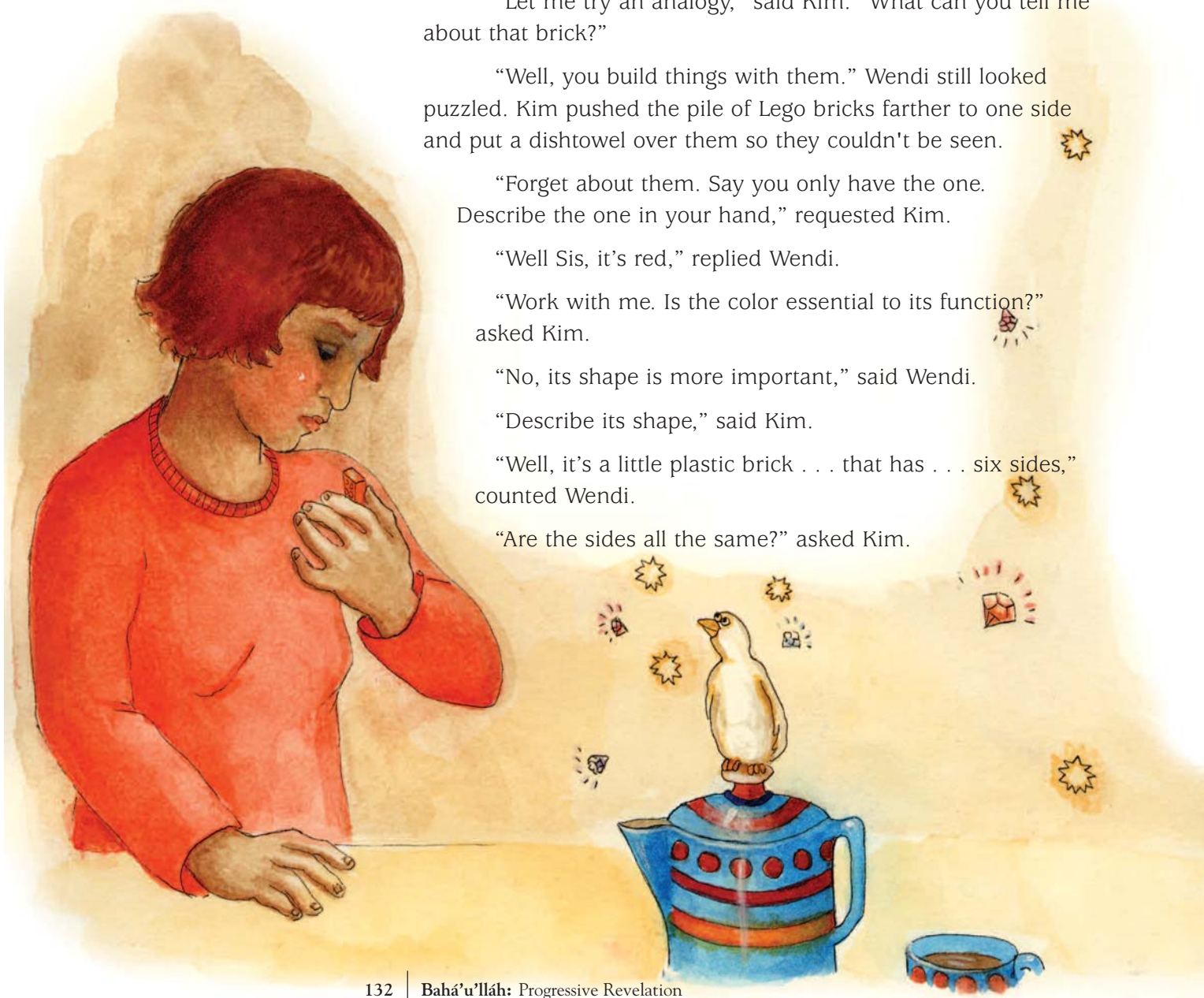
“Work with me. Is the color essential to its function?” asked Kim.

“No, its shape is more important,” said Wendi.

“Describe its shape,” said Kim.

“Well, it’s a little plastic brick . . . that has . . . six sides,” counted Wendi.

“Are the sides all the same?” asked Kim.





“No, four are smooth . . . the top has little knobs, and the bottom is hollow,” answered Wendi.

“Which of these features are vital to its function?” asked Kim. “The knobs and the hollows allow it to be stacked, since they fit together. Stacking is its function,” Wendi replied. She turned it over, examining it. “You know, I don’t think I have ever looked this closely at a Lego brick before. These are really well-made for their size,” commented Wendi.

“Now, knowing only about the brick in your hand, what can you surmise?” asked Kim.

Wendi thought for a moment, and then it came to her. “There must be others just like this one. You can’t stack just one thing,” she concluded.

Kim reached under the dishtowel and picked up another one. This one was blue. She handed it to her sister.

Wendi instantly fit the two together and set them on the table.

“Now, you have a stack, a sequence,” Kim pointed out. “And because of their shape, there is still provision left for another one on top.” Kim gave Wendi another piece and asked: “Remind me . . . what is the function of Lego bricks?”





“To build things,” said Wendi thoughtfully, adding it to the stack.

“The process of mankind’s spiritual evolution is like this,” said Kim. “It continues because God sends Messengers from time to time. These are the Messengers.” Kim removed the dishtowel. She reached over and started her own stack of Lego bricks.

“Jesus was a Lego brick? This is your analogy?” asked Wendi jokingly, holding up the red brick between her thumb and finger.

“I am working with what I have in front of me,” laughed Kim. “Look here. If we were Jewish, we would recognize a certain sequence of God’s Messengers,” she said pointing to her pair of bricks, “Abraham and then Moses.”

“I see,” said Wendi thoughtfully. Kim smiled and took the red brick Wendi had been holding and added it to the top of her stack.

“And if we were Christian,” Kim explained, “we would understand that the sequence was Abraham, Moses, and then Christ.” Kim paused to see if her sister was still with her. “And . . . if we were Muslim, we would see Abraham, Moses, Christ, and then Muḥammad as the historical chronology of the Messengers of God.”

She placed a fourth brick on the stack. “This is part of the eternal covenant of Abraham, in which God promised never to abandon mankind, and in fulfillment of this, God has sent Krishna, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Christ, Muḥammad, the Báb and, most recently, Bahá’u’lláh. Jesus wasn’t the only One. He was the One Who came two thousand years ago. Others came before and after Him.”



Wendi watched as Kim added more and more bricks to the top and bottom of the stack. When she was done, Kim silently pointed to the entire sequence of interlocked different colored Lego bricks. She looked at her sister and could anticipate the question that was forming in her mind.

“Yes, it’s all the same religion,” Kim answered. “The religion of God has had many Messengers.” Wendi thought about this.

“And you believe that there will never be a last one,” said Wendi, pointing to the top of the stack.

“That’s right,” affirmed Kim “God will continue to send us Messengers like Christ and Bahá’u’lláh forever. We call this eternal process ‘Progressive Revelation.’”

“Very interesting, but I’ll bet the people at the Lego Company never imagined that these could be used this way,” concluded Wendi. ★

