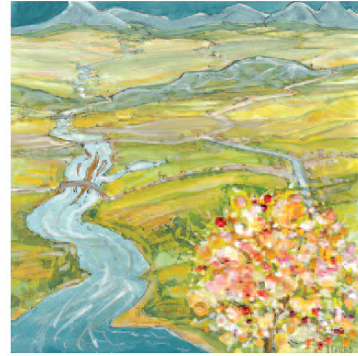


The following story is from the book

*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.

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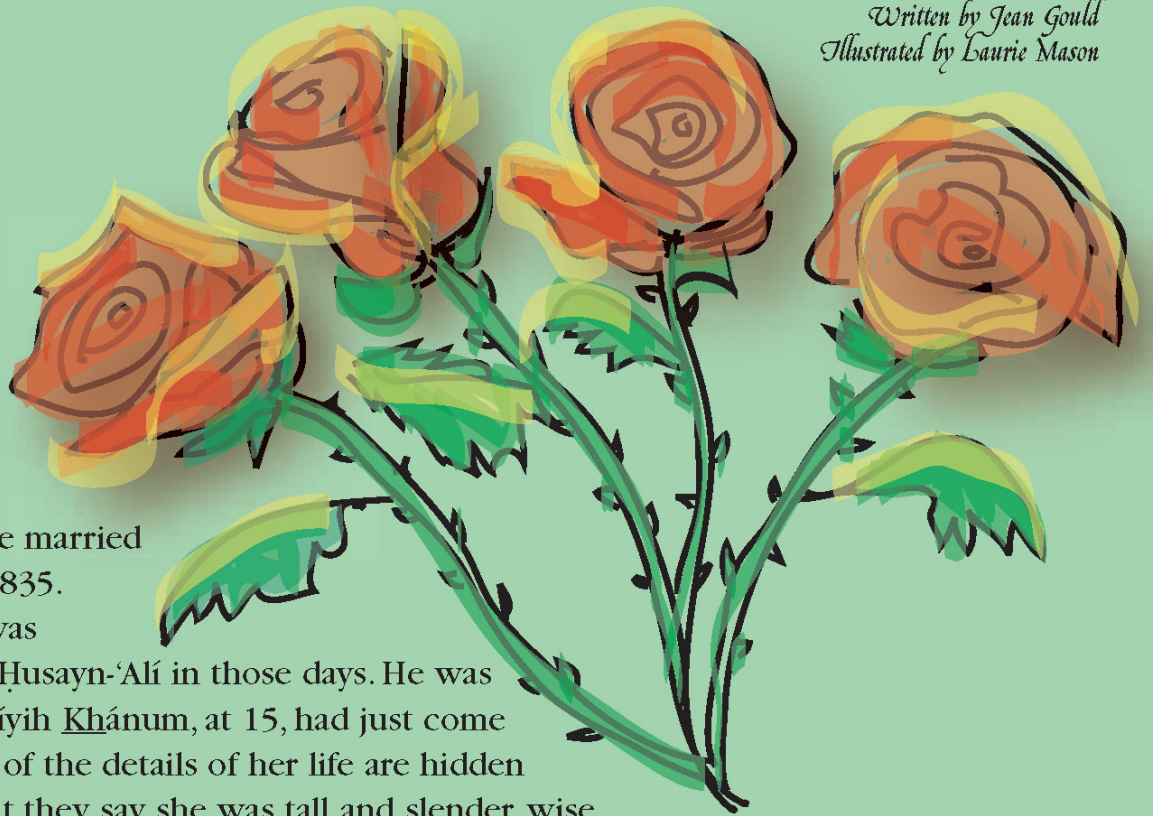
O friends!  
Help ye the one true God,  
exalted be His glory,  
by your goodly deeds,  
by such conduct and character  
as shall be acceptable  
in His sight.

— Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 272

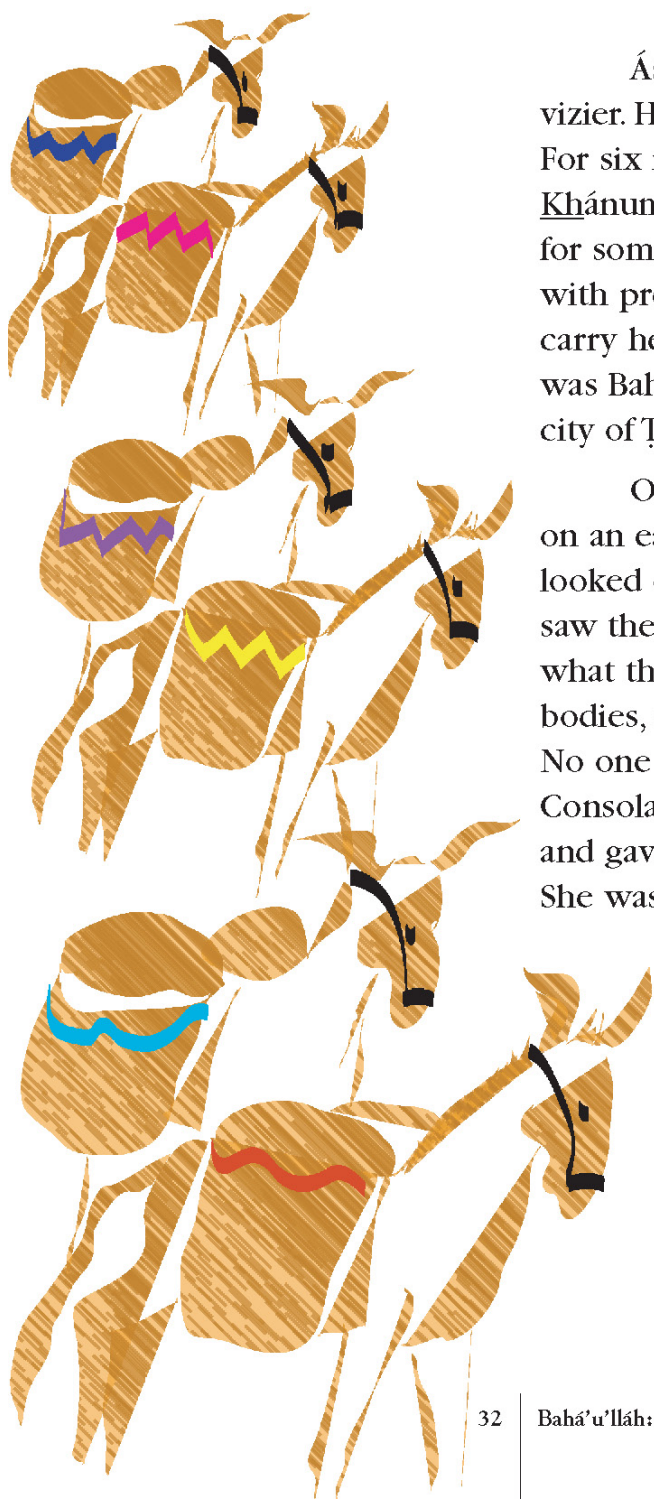


# The Mother of Consolation

*Written by Jean Gould  
Illustrated by Laurie Mason*



They were married in October 1835. Bahá'u'llah was called Mírzá Ḥusayn-'Alí in those days. He was nearly 18. Ásíyih Khánúm, at 15, had just come of age. Many of the details of her life are hidden in history. But they say she was tall and slender, wise and funny, and very, very beautiful.

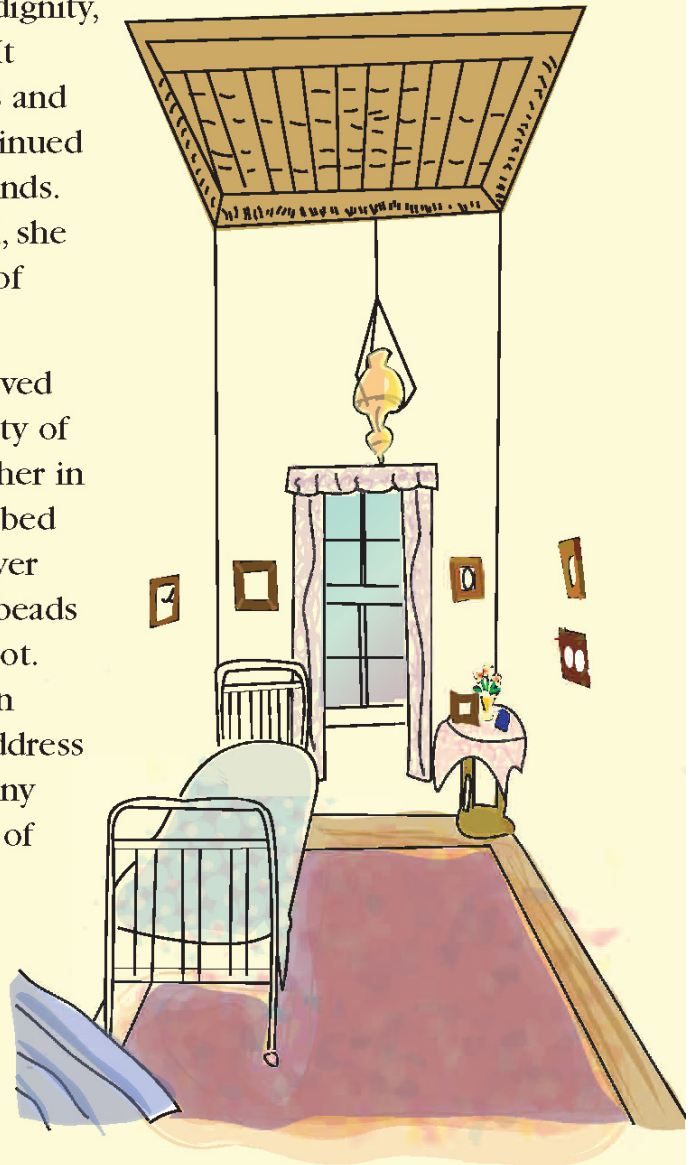


Ásíyih Khánum was the only daughter of a Persian vizier. He was a man of great wealth and importance. For six months, a jeweler labored to prepare Ásíyih Khánum's jewelry for her marriage. Even the buttons for some of her dresses were made of gold and set with precious stones. Forty mules were needed to carry her wedding treasures to her new home. This was Bahá'u'lláh's vast and glittering house in the capital city of Tīhrán.

One might have expected Ásíyih Khánum to insist on an easy and selfish life. But this did not suit her. She looked out calmly from her deep, dark blue eyes and saw the unhappy people. Soon they came to her for what they needed—warm food and clothing for their bodies, soft words and gentle laughter for their hearts. No one was turned away. They called her the Mother of Consolation. Bahá'u'lláh called her the Most Exalted Leaf and gave her a title of courtesy and respect—Navváb. She was a pearl, a flower among women, a queen.

One day Bahá'u'lláh was thrown into prison and exile. Ásíyih Khánum left her rich world behind without a second thought. With courage and dignity, she journeyed with Him into the wilderness. It was a wilderness of poverty and homelessness and imprisonment. Still, through 40 years, she continued to give away what little passed through her hands. Still, she listened with her heart and mind. Still, she worked beyond her strength to ease the pain of those around her.

At the end of her days, Ásíyih Khánum lived in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's rented house in the prison city of 'Akká. Her frequent visitors could usually find her in her tiny room. In it, there was a narrow white bed and a very small table where she kept her prayer book. Her pen-case, writing paper, and prayer beads were also there and sometimes a flower in a pot. An old painted box held her few clothes. Often she wore a blue dress and a simple white headdress on her hair. Little black slippers warmed her tiny feet. Often she was at work, mending the coat of her Beloved.



One day Ásíyih Khánum slipped quietly away from this world. Her beloved Husband was beside her when she died. She was far from the mansions of her youth and her wedding treasures. But Bahá'u'lláh's love was constant and complete and the only thing she ever wanted. He made her a special promise. He promised that she would be His companion through all the worlds of God.

Ásíyih Khánum lives on in the hearts of the earth's people. They will read about her for centuries to come. They will continue to be comforted and encouraged by her love and service. It is her gift to the followers of her Beloved. ★

