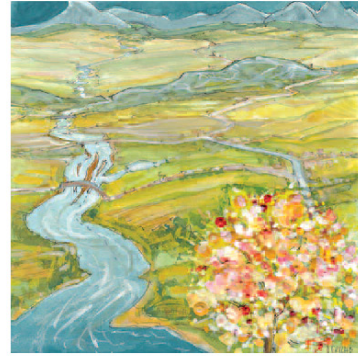


The following story is from the book

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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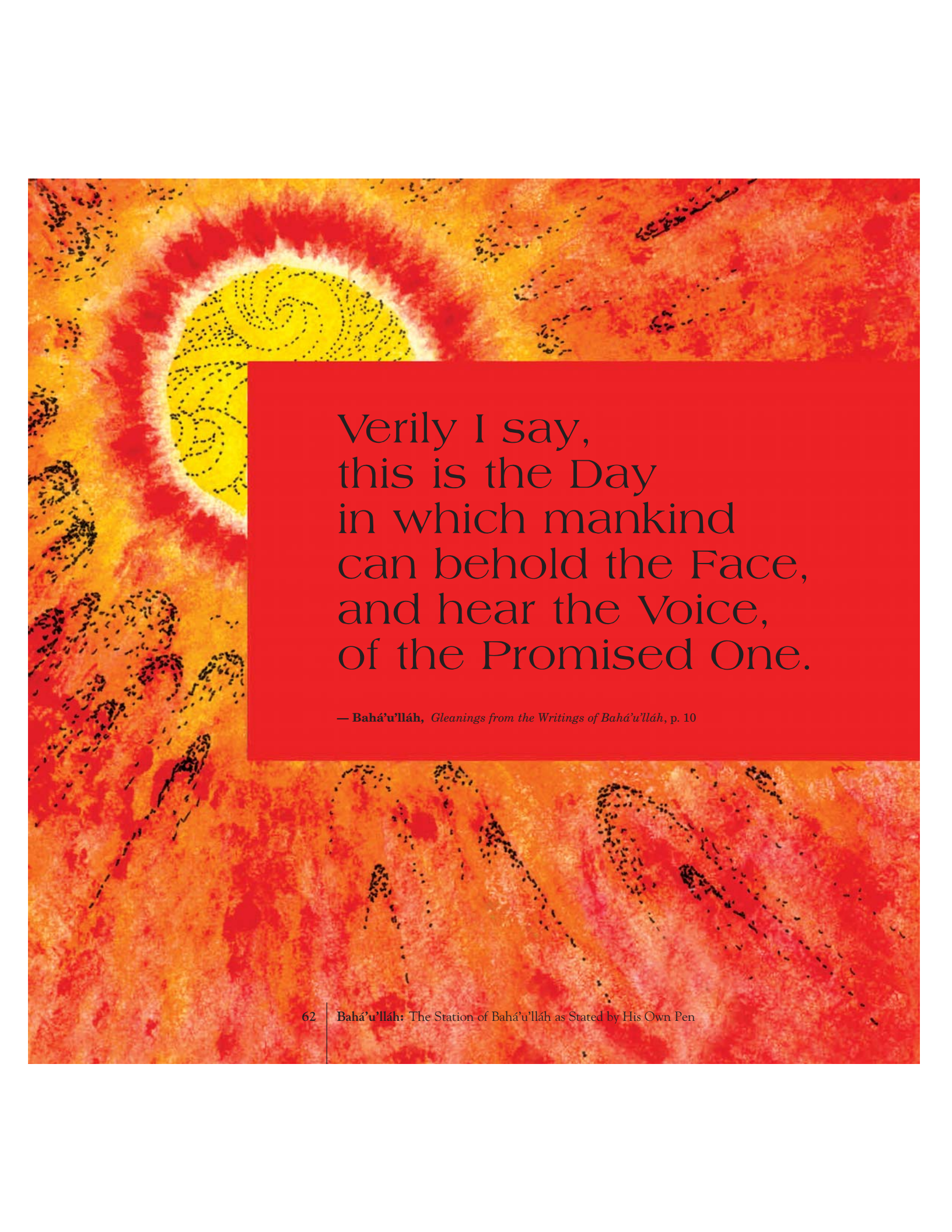
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Verily I say,
this is the Day
in which mankind
can behold the Face,
and hear the Voice,
of the Promised One.

— Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 10

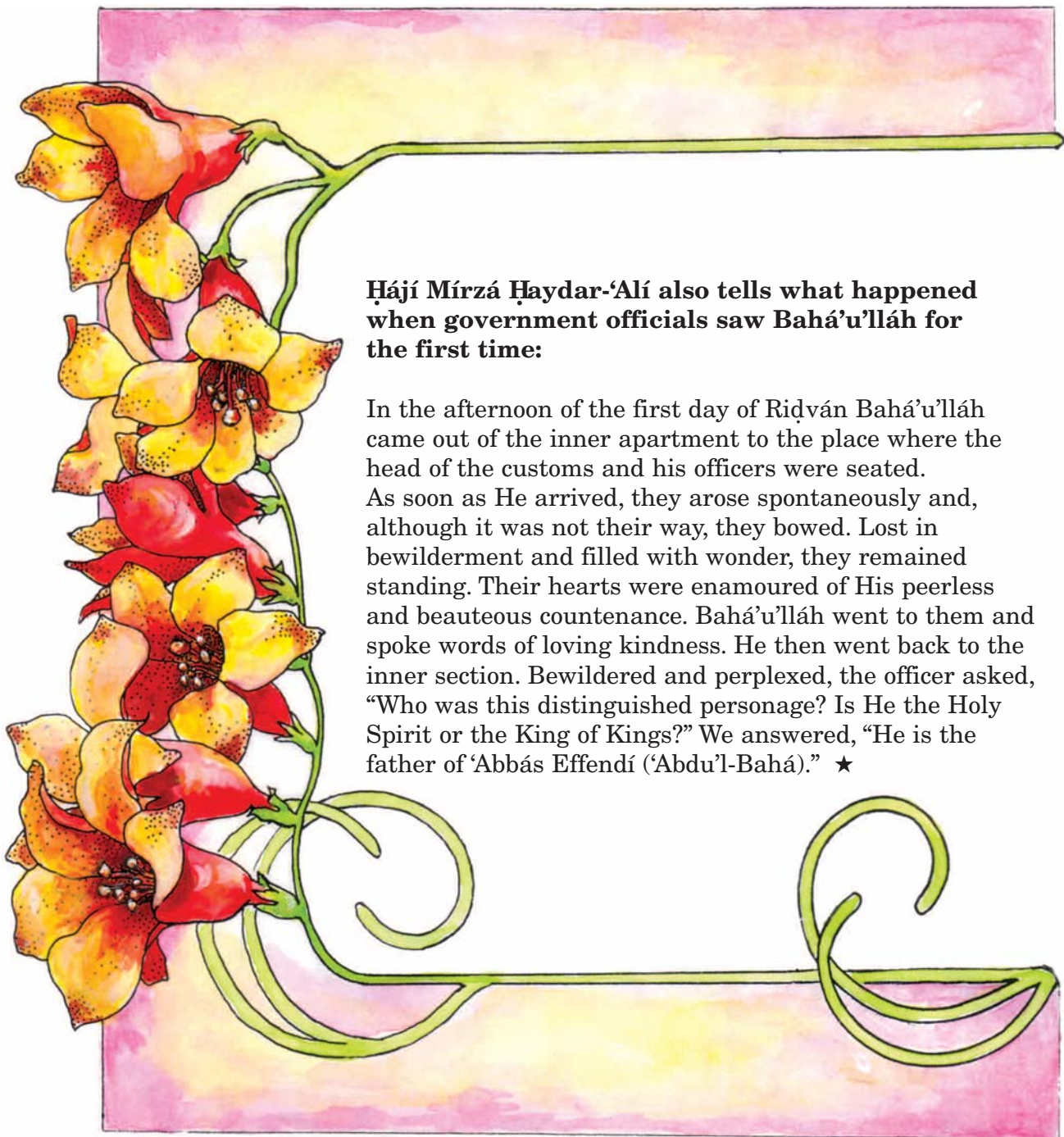
Meeting Bahá'u'lláh

Written by Hájí Mírzá Haydar-'Alí
Translated by Adib Taherzadeh
Illustrated by Carla Trimble

In his book, *Bihjatu's-Sudúr*, "The Delight of Hearts," Hájí Mírzá Haydar-'Alí records the words of one of the friends who met Bahá'u'lláh:

Know with absolute certainty that if anyone, whether friend or foe, claims that he was able to look directly into the blessed face of Bahá'u'lláh he is a liar. I tested this repeatedly and tried time and again to gaze upon His blessed countenance, but was unable to do so. Sometimes, when a person attains the presence of Bahá'u'lláh, he is so enamoured and carried away that in fact he becomes dumbfounded, awe-struck, oblivious of himself and forgetful of the world. And whenever he is not carried away, should he try to look into His blessed face with concentration, it would be like looking into the sun. In the same way that the eye is blinded by the effulgent rays of the sun, causing tears to flow, should one persist in gazing upon the countenance of the Blessed Beauty (Bahá'u'lláh), tears will fill the eyes making it impossible to gain any impression of Him.





Hájí Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí also tells what happened when government officials saw Bahá’u’lláh for the first time:

In the afternoon of the first day of Riḍván Bahá’u’lláh came out of the inner apartment to the place where the head of the customs and his officers were seated. As soon as He arrived, they arose spontaneously and, although it was not their way, they bowed. Lost in bewilderment and filled with wonder, they remained standing. Their hearts were enamoured of His peerless and beautiful countenance. Bahá’u’lláh went to them and spoke words of loving kindness. He then went back to the inner section. Bewildered and perplexed, the officer asked, “Who was this distinguished personage? Is He the Holy Spirit or the King of Kings?” We answered, “He is the father of ‘Abbás Effendí (‘Abdu’l-Bahá).” ★