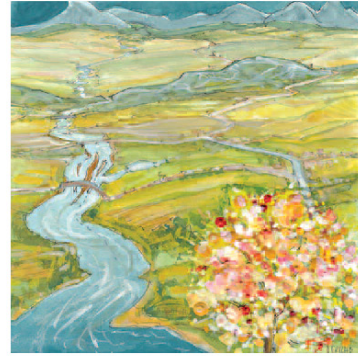


The following story is from the book

*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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Graphic Design by Pepper Peterson Oldziey

Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette, Illinois 60091-2886  
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Published 2002  
05 04 03 02 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America

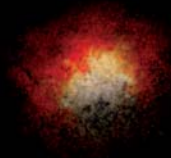
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**Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education • Stories**  
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

  
Bahá'í Publishing Trust  
Wilmette, Illinois

*By God!  
This is the Best-Beloved  
of the worlds,  
and yet ye comprehend not.*

— Bahá'u'lláh, quoted by Shoghi Effendi in *God Passes By*, p. 102



# The Maiden of Heaven

Written by Anthony A. Lee  
Illustrated by Beth Fleming

Bahá'u'lláh is a Prophet of God. He is a Teacher sent by God to tell us what we should do and how we can make the world a better place.

God has sent many of these teachers at different times and to different places. Some of the other Prophets of God are: Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Muḥammad, and the Báb. Can you name any others? Bahá'u'lláh is the Prophet of God for today.

Did you know that every Prophet of God has a special time when He first finds out that He has been chosen by God to bring a new Message to the people? For each Prophet, there is a story about the first time He discovers God's Word. All of the stories about these first revelations are very exciting and also very beautiful.



There is the story of Moses and the burning bush—

When Moses was tending His herds in the wilderness, on the mountainside, he saw a bush that was on fire. It burned and burned, but the flames did not destroy the bush. Moses climbed up the mountain to find out what kind of bush this was. When He came close to the bush, God spoke to Him for the first time—in a loud voice, out of the flames.

Another story is about Jesus and the dove from heaven—

Jesus came with many other people to be washed clean in a river. When Jesus was baptized, the story says that something special happened. The sky opened, and a dove flew down from heaven and spoke. The dove told everyone that Jesus was a Prophet of God.

There is another story about Muḥammad and the Angel Gabriel—

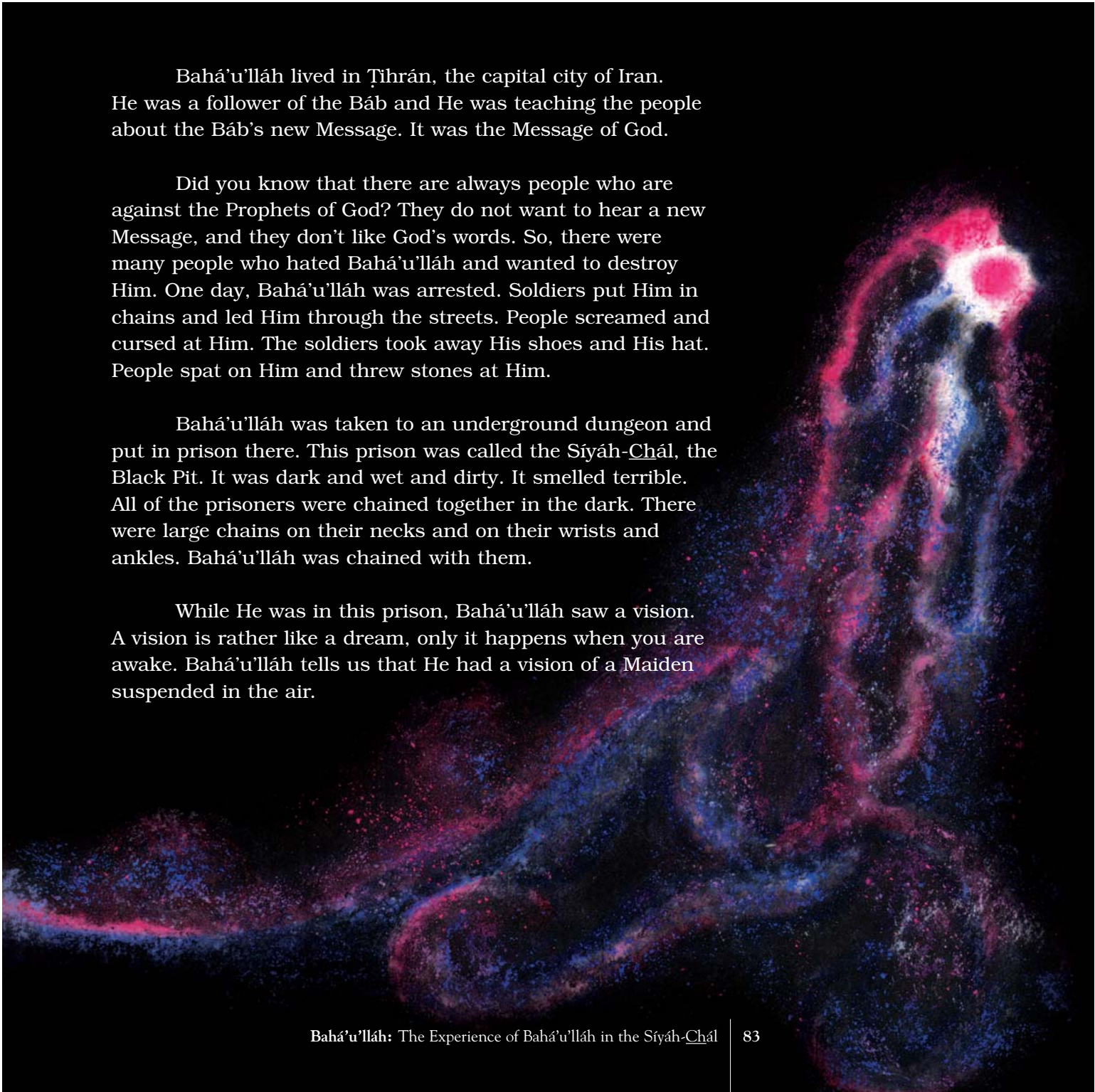
One day, Muḥammad was praying in the mountains near His home. Suddenly, He saw the Angel Gabriel before Him. Gabriel commanded Him to read. And Muḥammad spoke the words of God for the first time. Bahá'ís also have the story of Bahá'u'lláh and the Maiden of Heaven—

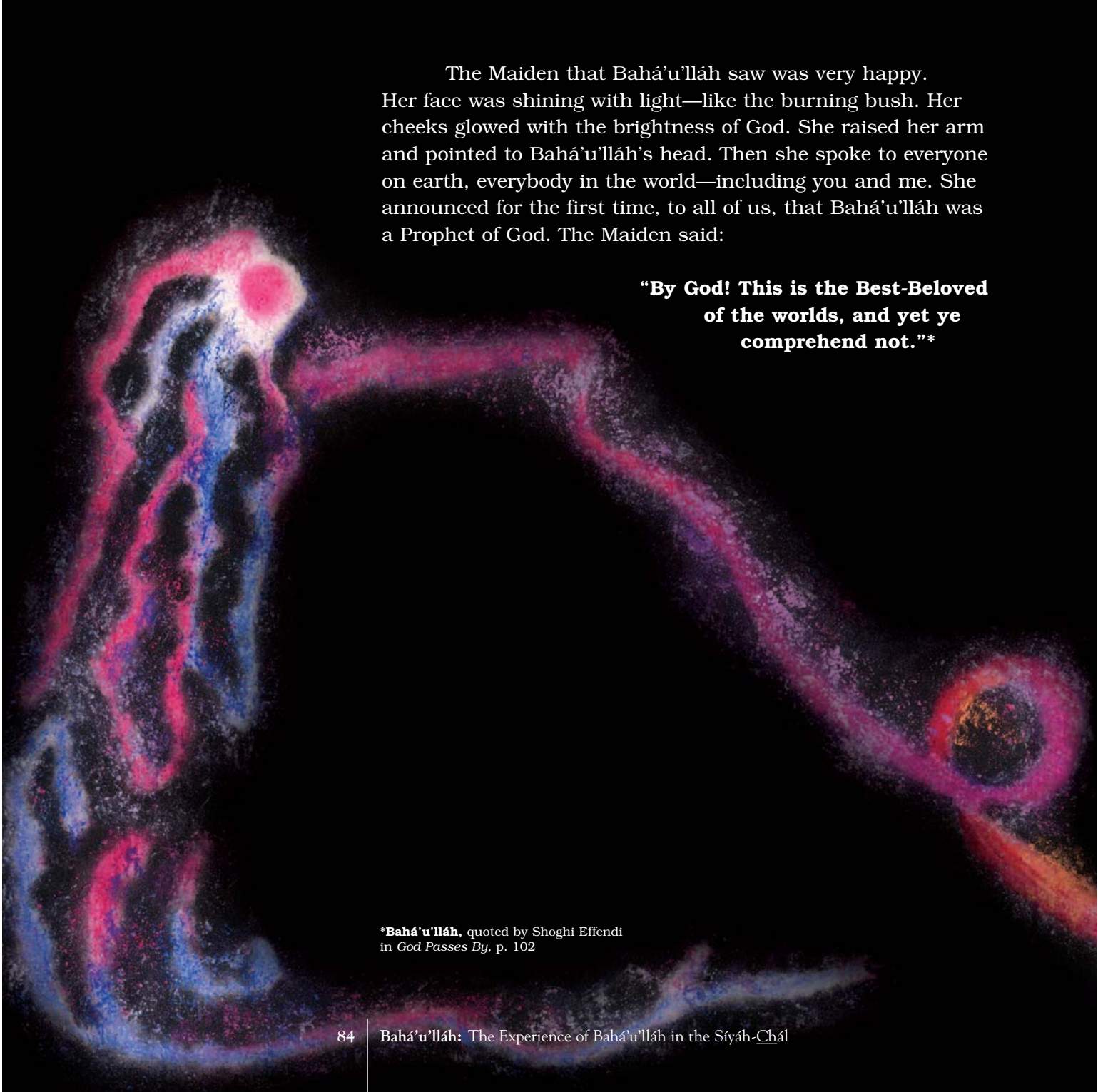
Bahá'u'lláh lived in Tīhrán, the capital city of Iran. He was a follower of the Báb and He was teaching the people about the Báb's new Message. It was the Message of God.

Did you know that there are always people who are against the Prophets of God? They do not want to hear a new Message, and they don't like God's words. So, there were many people who hated Bahá'u'lláh and wanted to destroy Him. One day, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested. Soldiers put Him in chains and led Him through the streets. People screamed and cursed at Him. The soldiers took away His shoes and His hat. People spat on Him and threw stones at Him.

Bahá'u'lláh was taken to an underground dungeon and put in prison there. This prison was called the Síyáh-Chál, the Black Pit. It was dark and wet and dirty. It smelled terrible. All of the prisoners were chained together in the dark. There were large chains on their necks and on their wrists and ankles. Bahá'u'lláh was chained with them.

While He was in this prison, Bahá'u'lláh saw a vision. A vision is rather like a dream, only it happens when you are awake. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that He had a vision of a Maiden suspended in the air.





The Maiden that Bahá'u'lláh saw was very happy. Her face was shining with light—like the burning bush. Her cheeks glowed with the brightness of God. She raised her arm and pointed to Bahá'u'lláh's head. Then she spoke to everyone on earth, everybody in the world—including you and me. She announced for the first time, to all of us, that Bahá'u'lláh was a Prophet of God. The Maiden said:

**“By God! This is the Best-Beloved  
of the worlds, and yet ye  
comprehend not.”\***

\*Bahá'u'lláh, quoted by Shoghi Effendi  
in *God Passes By*, p. 102

In that dark prison, Bahá'u'lláh understood that He was a Prophet of God. God had sent Him to bring new teachings to all the people of the world.

After four months in the dungeon, Bahá'u'lláh was released. He and His family were sent out of Iran in exile. For the rest of His life, He was a prisoner sent from city to city. He could never return home again.

But Bahá'u'lláh always remembered the Maiden, and God always spoke to Him. He knew that He was a Prophet of God, and He wrote many books to give us the Message of God for today. ★

