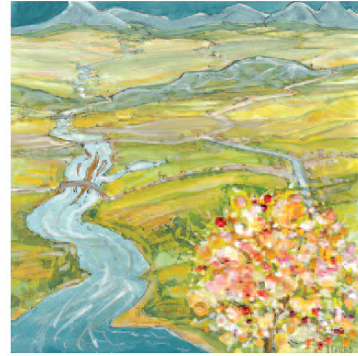


The following story is from the book

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 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

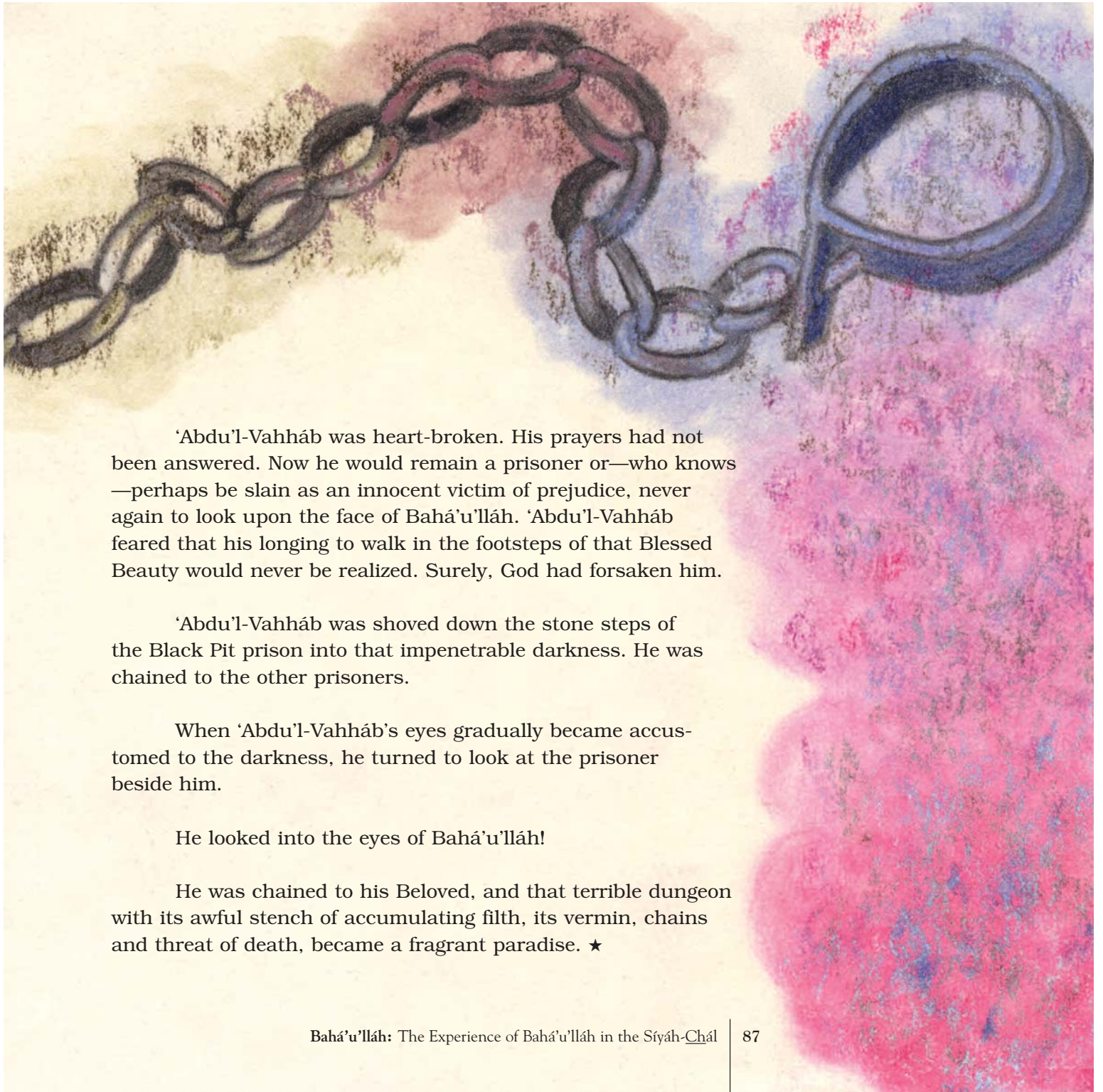
Written by William Sears
and Robert Quigley
Illustrated by Beth Fleming

The Story of 'Abdu'l-Vahháb

'Abdu'l-Vahháb was from Shíráz. When he was living in Kázimayn, his love for Bahá'u'lláh became so overpowering that he left home and followed Bahá'u'lláh to Ṭihrán. He longed to be in Bahá'u'lláh's presence once more. 'Abdu'l-Vahháb yearned to walk in the footsteps of his Beloved.

Before 'Abdu'l-Vahháb arrived in Ṭihrán, Bahá'u'lláh had been seized and arrested. Although history proved Him to be innocent of any wrong-doing, Bahá'u'lláh was paraded bareheaded, barefooted, and in chains for miles under the blazing sun. His hat was knocked off and His garments stripped from His body. He was stoned along the route. He was beaten by the mounted guards who escorted Him to prison. Finally they cast Him into a black sunless pit underground. There He was chained to the floor. His feet were put in stocks. His shoulders were weighted down by a huge heavy one-hundred-pound chain which tore His flesh and scarred Him for life.

When 'Abdu'l-Vahháb arrived in Ṭihrán searching for Bahá'u'lláh, he, too, was arrested as a follower of this new religion. He was thrown into prison.



‘Abdu’l-Vahháb was heart-broken. His prayers had not been answered. Now he would remain a prisoner or—who knows—perhaps be slain as an innocent victim of prejudice, never again to look upon the face of Bahá’u’lláh. ‘Abdu’l-Vahháb feared that his longing to walk in the footsteps of that Blessed Beauty would never be realized. Surely, God had forsaken him.

‘Abdu’l-Vahháb was shoved down the stone steps of the Black Pit prison into that impenetrable darkness. He was chained to the other prisoners.

When ‘Abdu’l-Vahháb’s eyes gradually became accustomed to the darkness, he turned to look at the prisoner beside him.

He looked into the eyes of Bahá’u’lláh!

He was chained to his Beloved, and that terrible dungeon with its awful stench of accumulating filth, its vermin, chains and threat of death, became a fragrant paradise. ★