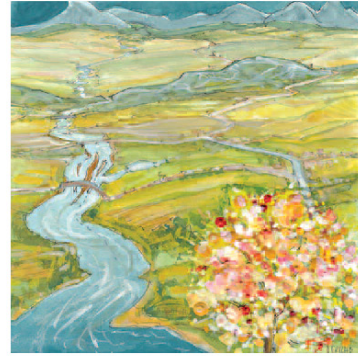


The following story is from the book

*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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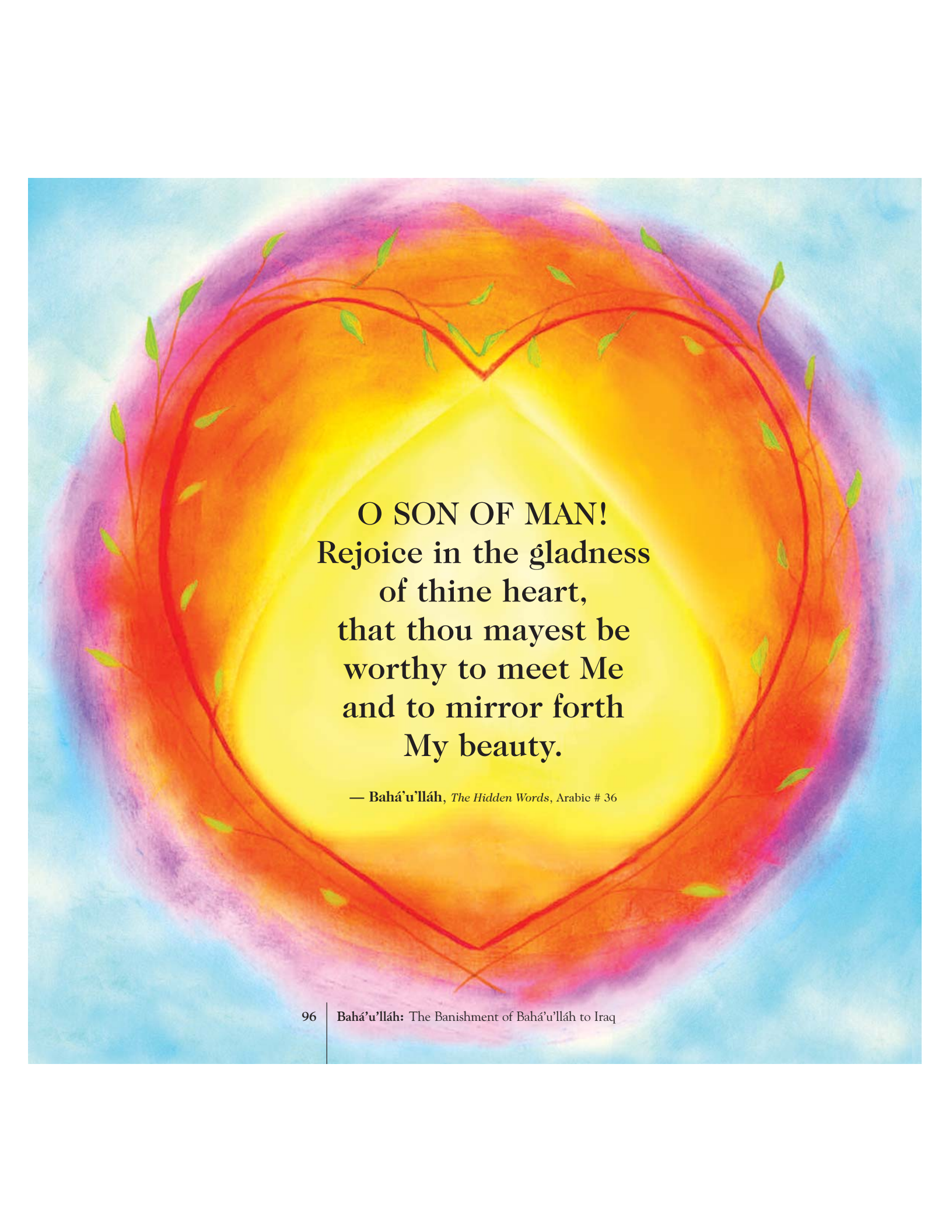
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O SON OF MAN!  
Rejoice in the gladness  
of thine heart,  
that thou mayest be  
worthy to meet Me  
and to mirror forth  
My beauty.

— Bahá'u'lláh, *The Hidden Words*, Arabic # 36



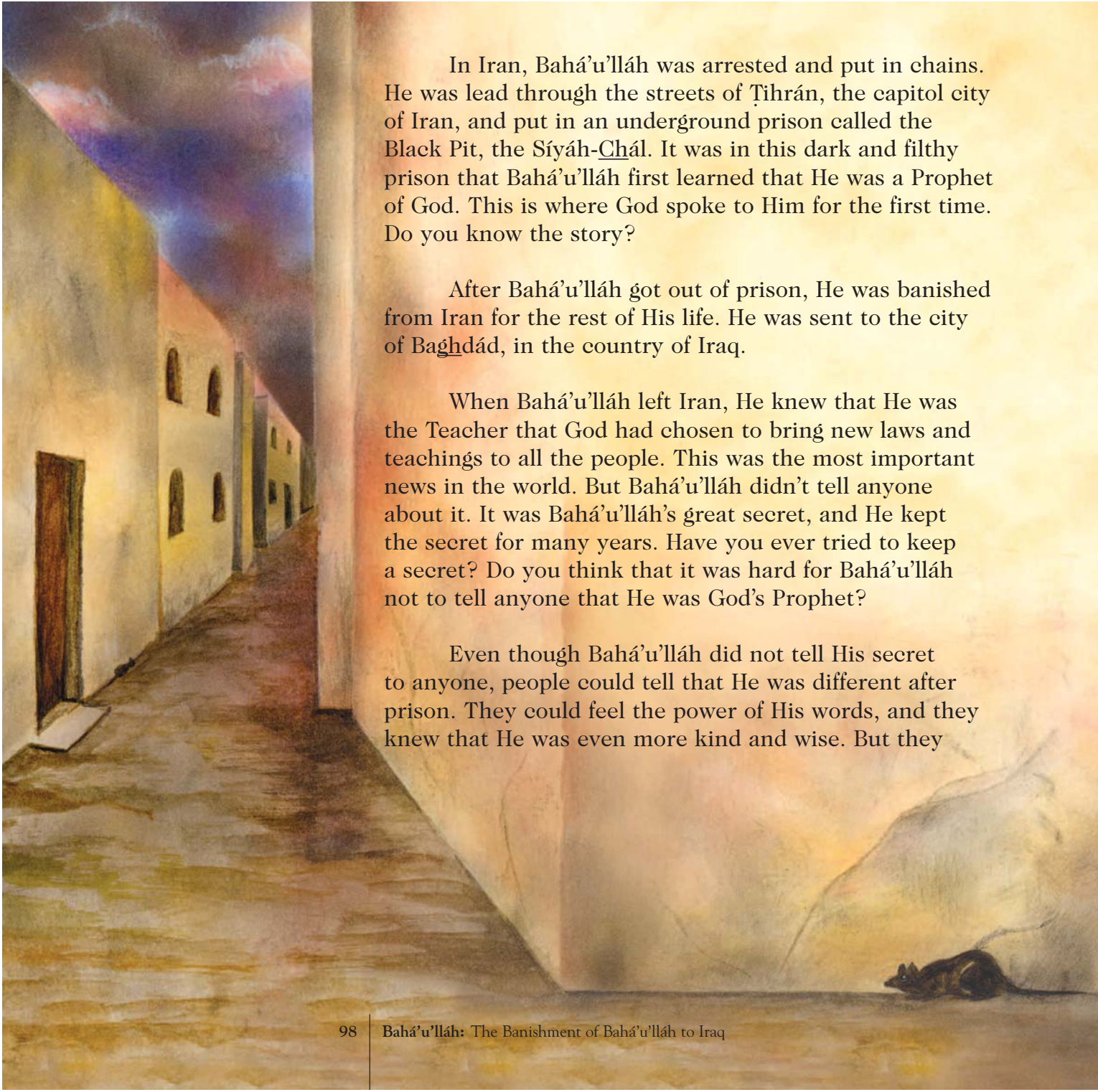


# Bahá'u'lláh's Secret

This story is about Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'ís believe that Bahá'u'lláh was a Prophet of God. Bahá'ís believe that God has sent many Prophets to the people of the world. Moses, Jesus, Muḥammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh came at different times and to different places. Did you know that Bahá'ís believe that they all came from God? And Bahá'ís believe that Bahá'u'lláh is the Prophet of God sent for us today.

Did you know that every Prophet has enemies? There are some people who do not like the new ideas and new teachings that He brings. These people always try to harm Them, and sometimes they even try to kill Them. The Báb was a Prophet of God, and He had enemies. Bahá'u'lláh was a Prophet of God, and He had enemies, too.

*Written by Anthony A. Lee  
Illustrated by Jaci Ayorinde*



In Iran, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested and put in chains. He was lead through the streets of Tīhrán, the capitol city of Iran, and put in an underground prison called the Black Pit, the Síyáh-Chál. It was in this dark and filthy prison that Bahá'u'lláh first learned that He was a Prophet of God. This is where God spoke to Him for the first time. Do you know the story?

After Bahá'u'lláh got out of prison, He was banished from Iran for the rest of His life. He was sent to the city of Baghdád, in the country of Iraq.

When Bahá'u'lláh left Iran, He knew that He was the Teacher that God had chosen to bring new laws and teachings to all the people. This was the most important news in the world. But Bahá'u'lláh didn't tell anyone about it. It was Bahá'u'lláh's great secret, and He kept the secret for many years. Have you ever tried to keep a secret? Do you think that it was hard for Bahá'u'lláh not to tell anyone that He was God's Prophet?

Even though Bahá'u'lláh did not tell His secret to anyone, people could tell that He was different after prison. They could feel the power of His words, and they knew that He was even more kind and wise. But they



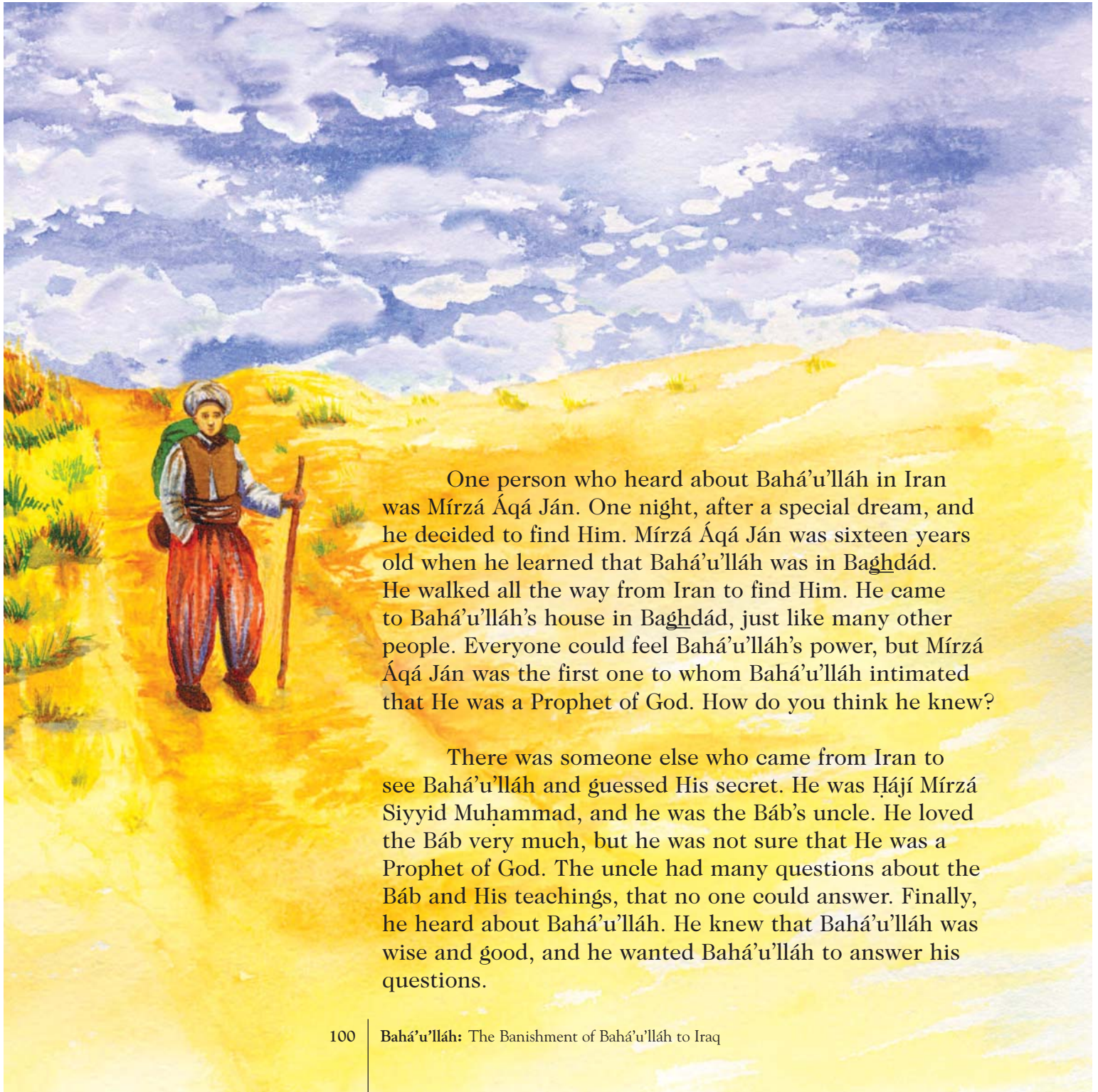
didn't know that He was a Prophet. Bahá'u'lláh had to leave Iran and go to live in Baghdád, but some people traveled all the way from Iran to Iraq just to see Him. A few people even guessed the secret and became His followers. If you had heard about Bahá'u'lláh, would you want to go to see Him? Do you think that you could have guessed that He was a Prophet of God? How could you guess the secret?

While Bahá'u'lláh lived in Baghdád, everyone wanted to talk to Him. His house was always full of visitors. The people wanted to hear what He had to say. Many people wanted to ask for His help. Important people wanted to get His advice. Others just wanted to see what He looked like. Everyone knew that there was something special about Bahá'u'lláh. But they didn't know the secret.

Bahá'u'lláh's enemies did not like all the attention He was getting from the people. They knew that Bahá'u'lláh was powerful and important, and they wanted to destroy Him. One day, they told a man to take a gun and kill Him. The gunman waited for Bahá'u'lláh to pass in the street. But when he saw Him, he was so amazed by Bahá'u'lláh's power that he became confused. He dropped his gun and forgot what he was supposed to do. No one could hurt Bahá'u'lláh.



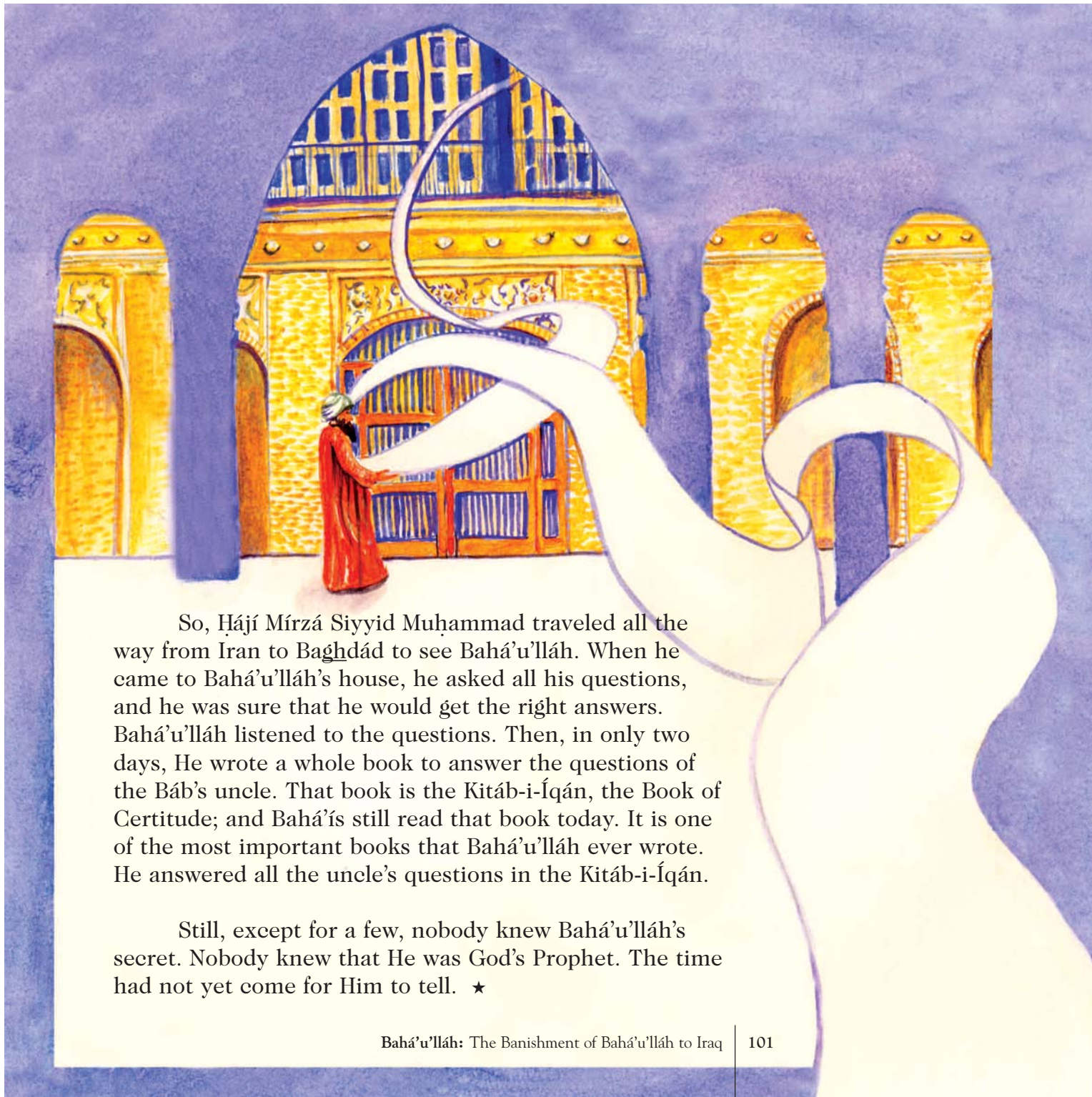




One person who heard about Bahá'u'lláh in Iran was Mírzá Áqá Ján. One night, after a special dream, and he decided to find Him. Mírzá Áqá Ján was sixteen years old when he learned that Bahá'u'lláh was in Baghdád. He walked all the way from Iran to find Him. He came to Bahá'u'lláh's house in Baghdád, just like many other people. Everyone could feel Bahá'u'lláh's power, but Mírzá Áqá Ján was the first one to whom Bahá'u'lláh intimated that He was a Prophet of God. How do you think he knew?

There was someone else who came from Iran to see Bahá'u'lláh and guessed His secret. He was Hájí Mírzá Siyyid Muḥammad, and he was the Báb's uncle. He loved the Báb very much, but he was not sure that He was a Prophet of God. The uncle had many questions about the Báb and His teachings, that no one could answer. Finally, he heard about Bahá'u'lláh. He knew that Bahá'u'lláh was wise and good, and he wanted Bahá'u'lláh to answer his questions.





So, Hájí Mírzá Siyyid Muḥammad traveled all the way from Iran to Baghdád to see Bahá'u'lláh. When he came to Bahá'u'lláh's house, he asked all his questions, and he was sure that he would get the right answers. Bahá'u'lláh listened to the questions. Then, in only two days, He wrote a whole book to answer the questions of the Báb's uncle. That book is the Kitáb-i-Íqán, the Book of Certitude; and Bahá'ís still read that book today. It is one of the most important books that Bahá'u'lláh ever wrote. He answered all the uncle's questions in the Kitáb-i-Íqán.

Still, except for a few, nobody knew Bahá'u'lláh's secret. Nobody knew that He was God's Prophet. The time had not yet come for Him to tell. ★