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*The Central Figures*

# Bahá'u'lláh

Volume Three



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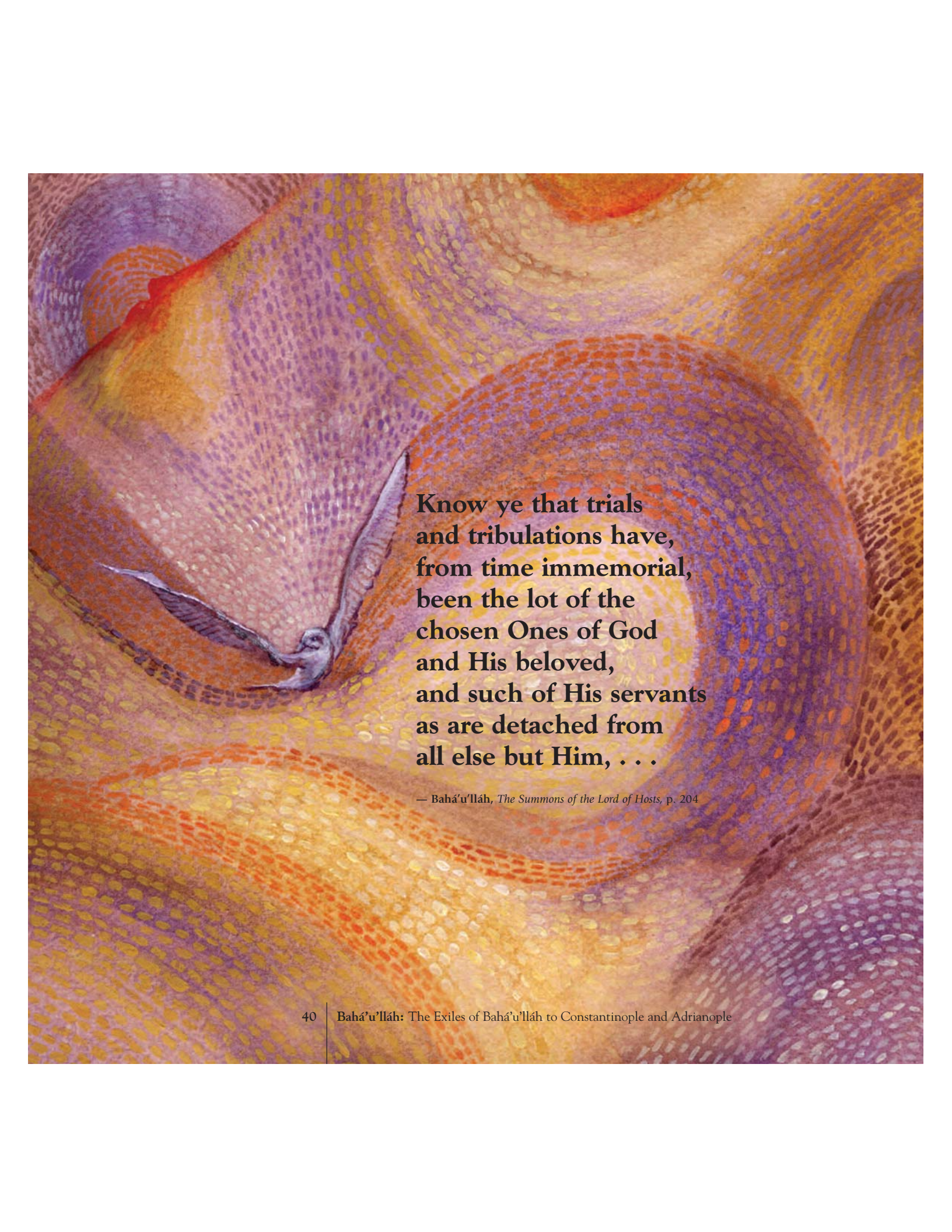
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**Know ye that trials  
and tribulations have,  
from time immemorial,  
been the lot of the  
chosen Ones of God  
and His beloved,  
and such of His servants  
as are detached from  
all else but Him, . . .**

— Bahá'u'lláh, *The Summons of the Lord of Hosts*, p. 204



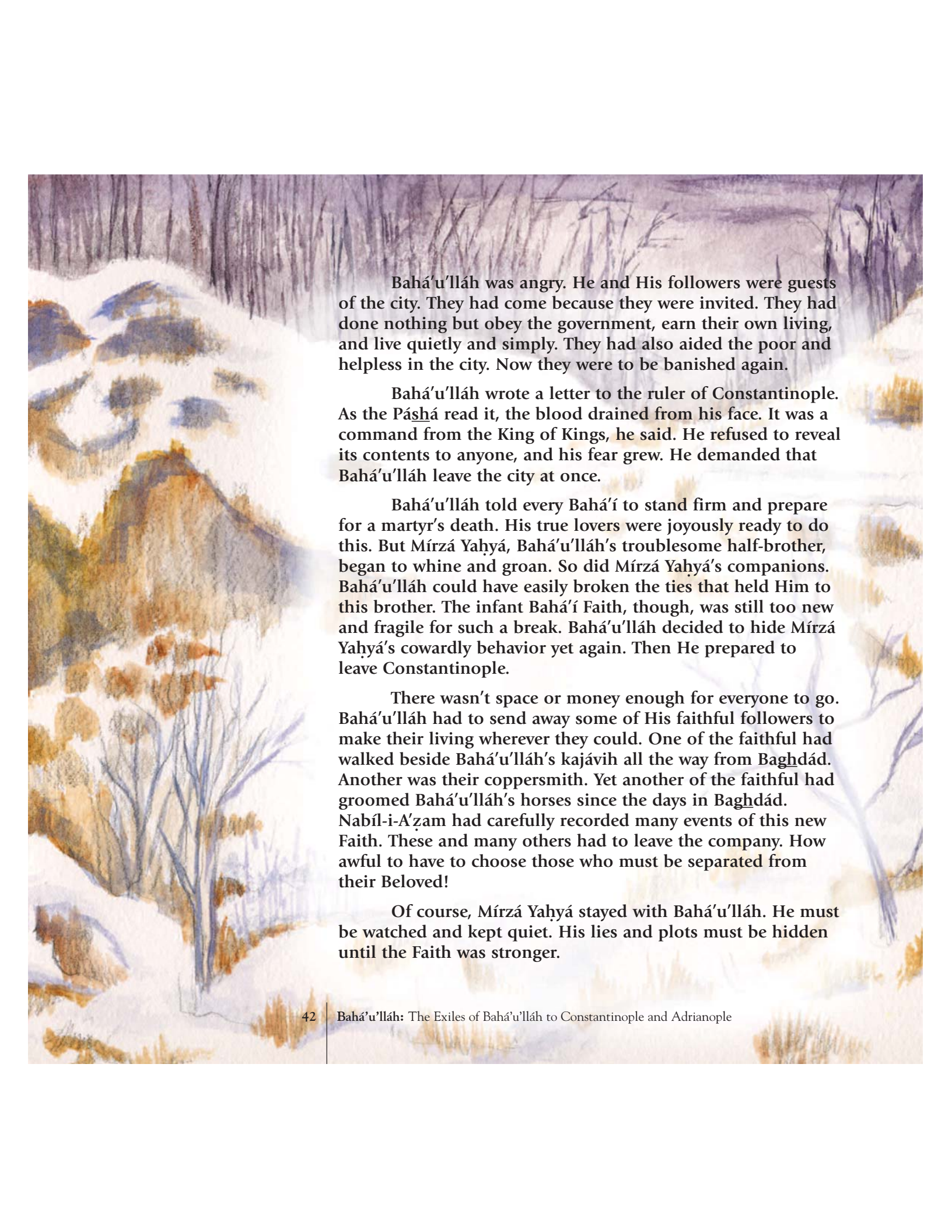
# Out of Constantinople

Written by Jean Gould  
Illustrated by Jaci Ayorinde

The authorities of Constantinople were afraid. It was true that they had invited Bahá'u'lláh and His company of believers to their city. They had given the invitation when they learned He was to leave Baghdád. But after only four months, Bahá'u'lláh was winning the hearts and minds of the citizens. They were irresistibly drawn to His love, generosity, and Teachings for a new Day.

Bahá'u'lláh also refused to beg or bribe the authorities for favors, as was the custom. This was unusual, and they were outraged when they didn't get any money. Those in command decided there was only one possible solution: Bahá'u'lláh must leave the city.





Bahá'u'lláh was angry. He and His followers were guests of the city. They had come because they were invited. They had done nothing but obey the government, earn their own living, and live quietly and simply. They had also aided the poor and helpless in the city. Now they were to be banished again.


Bahá'u'lláh wrote a letter to the ruler of Constantinople. As the Páshá read it, the blood drained from his face. It was a command from the King of Kings, he said. He refused to reveal its contents to anyone, and his fear grew. He demanded that Bahá'u'lláh leave the city at once.

Bahá'u'lláh told every Bahá'í to stand firm and prepare for a martyr's death. His true lovers were joyously ready to do this. But Mírzá Yahyá, Bahá'u'lláh's troublesome half-brother, began to whine and groan. So did Mírzá Yahyá's companions. Bahá'u'lláh could have easily broken the ties that held Him to this brother. The infant Bahá'í Faith, though, was still too new and fragile for such a break. Bahá'u'lláh decided to hide Mírzá Yahyá's cowardly behavior yet again. Then He prepared to leave Constantinople.

There wasn't space or money enough for everyone to go. Bahá'u'lláh had to send away some of His faithful followers to make their living wherever they could. One of the faithful had walked beside Bahá'u'lláh's kajávih all the way from Baghdád. Another was their coppersmith. Yet another of the faithful had groomed Bahá'u'lláh's horses since the days in Baghdád. Nabil-i-A'zam had carefully recorded many events of this new Faith. These and many others had to leave the company. How awful to have to choose those who must be separated from their Beloved!

Of course, Mírzá Yahyá stayed with Bahá'u'lláh. He must be watched and kept quiet. His lies and plots must be hidden until the Faith was stronger.



A watercolor illustration of three birds perched on a branch against a dark purple background with white speckles. The birds are rendered in shades of brown, tan, and white, with soft, textured brushstrokes. The background is a deep, dark purple with numerous small, white, irregular speckles scattered throughout, creating a starry or snowy effect. The branch is dark and textured, with the birds perched on it. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Those who remained with Bahá'u'lláh prepared for a dark journey. They had very little time and very little money. Worse, it was the dead of winter. The grandfathers and great-grandfathers said they had never seen such a terrible winter. The snow was falling as they left. On the way, they saw people lying frozen along the roadside. Once they tried to find their way through the dark in freezing rain. Always they traveled cold and hungry. There was never enough clothing to warm their bodies or enough hot food to warm their stomachs. Somehow, they found the strength to go on.

It took the travelers 12 days to complete the nightmare journey to Adrianople. Of their suffering, Bahá'u'lláh said that even "the eyes of Our enemies wept over Us." ★