

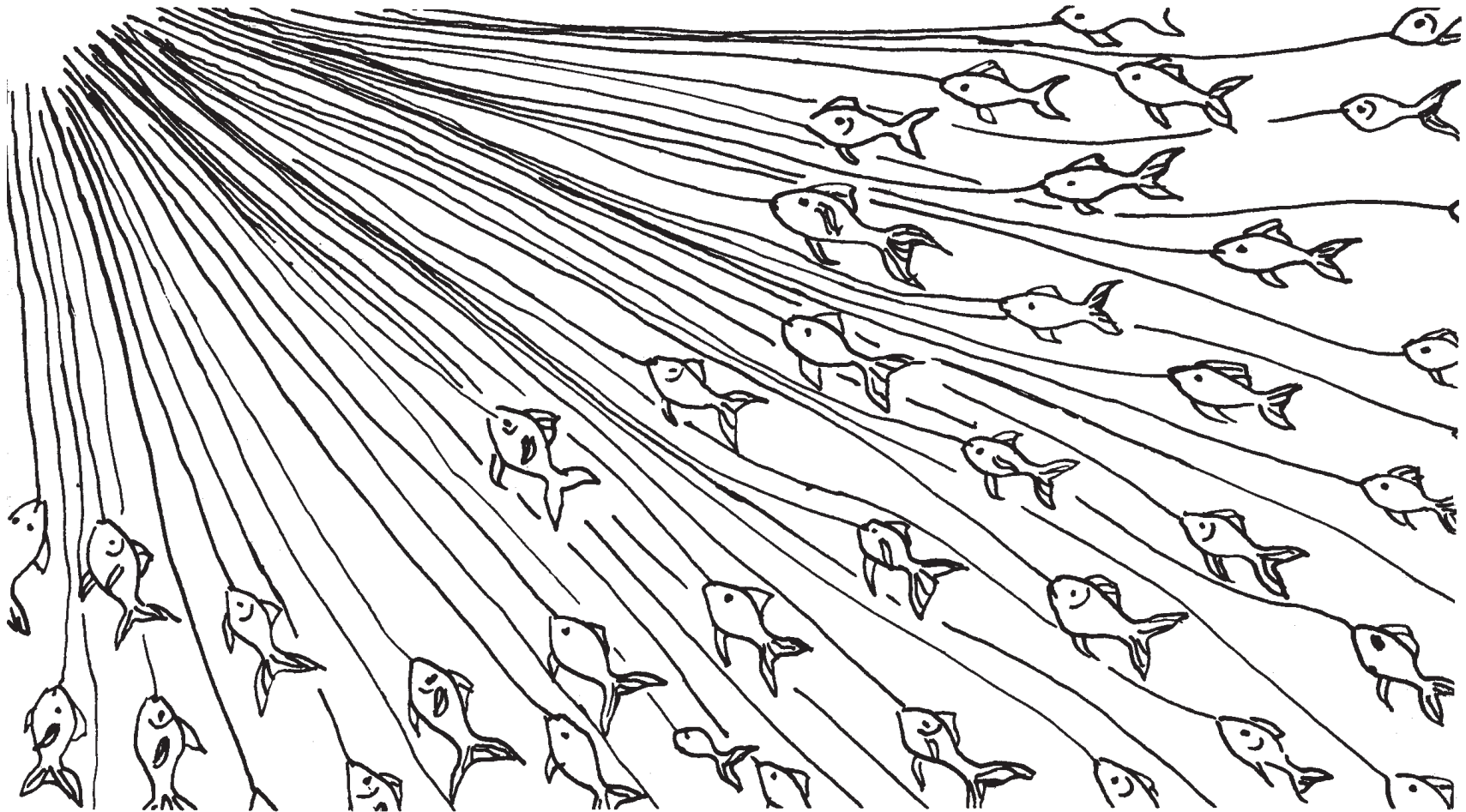
Bahá'u'lláh

The Glory of God





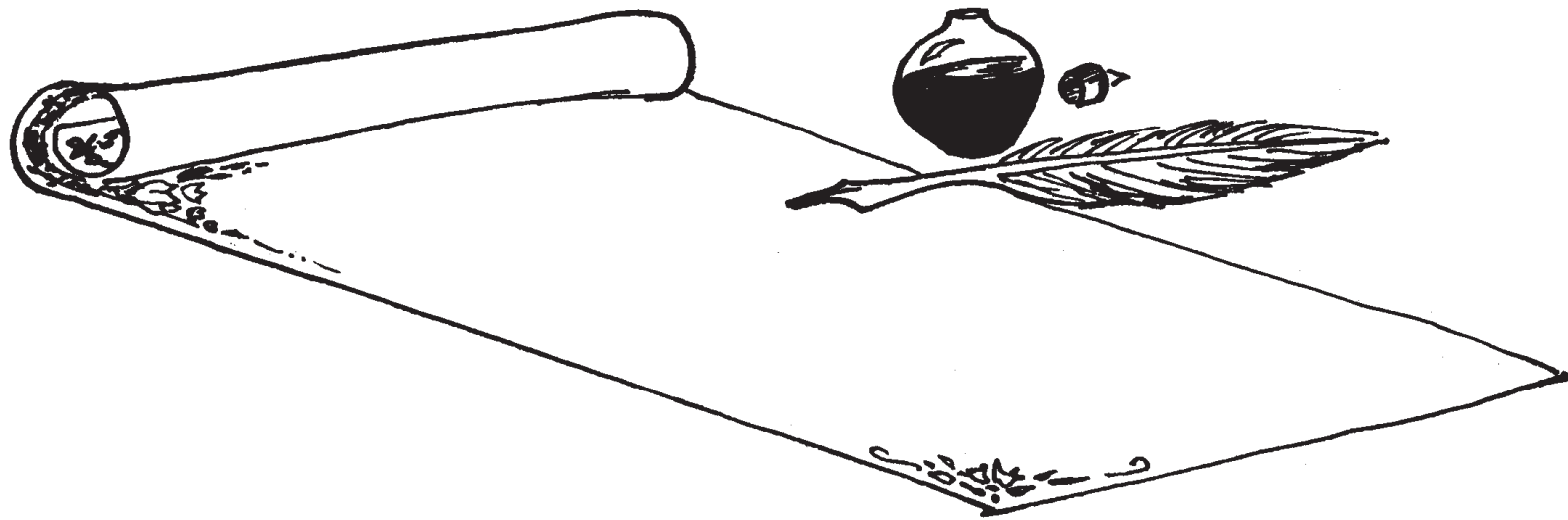
Bahá'u'lláh was born on 12 November 1817 in Tīhrán, the capital of Iran. From His childhood, He showed signs of greatness. He received some instruction at home but did not need to attend school, for He was endowed by God with innate knowledge.



One night, His father had a dream in which he saw Bahá'u'lláh swimming in an ocean. The light radiating from His body illuminated the waters. His long black hair floated in all directions, and a multitude of fish followed Him, each holding on to the end of one hair. He moved freely and unhindered. This dream was one of the many indications of the great destiny that awaited Bahá'u'lláh.



Later, when He was a young man, Bahá'u'lláh was offered a high position in the court of the king, but He refused it. He wished to dedicate His time to helping the oppressed, the sick and the poor and to champion the cause of justice.



When He was 27 years old, Bahá'u'lláh received a scroll of Writings from the Báb, the new Messenger of God, Who was preparing the people for the coming of the Promise of All Ages. Bahá'u'lláh accepted the Báb's Message and became one of His most enthusiastic supporters.



The authorities, unwilling to accept the truth proclaimed by the Báb, set out to persecute those who believed in Him, and thus began the sufferings of Bahá'u'lláh. In the year 1852, He was arrested and put in chains in one of the most dreadful prisons of Tíhrán.



In this prison, God revealed to Bahá'u'lláh that He was the One promised by the Báb and all the Prophets of the past. From this dark dungeon rose the Sun of Truth, illuminating the world and giving birth to a new Day in the life of humanity.



After four months of imprisonment, the government banished Bahá'u'lláh from His native land. During the bitter cold of winter, Bahá'u'lláh and His family made the long journey from Tīhrán to Baghdád.



In Baghdád, the fame of Bahá'u'lláh's wisdom spread in all directions. People of every background crowded to His home, seeking His help and advice. The government, which was afraid of Bahá'u'lláh's influence, decided to banish Him even farther from His homeland.



Garden of Ridván

April 1863

Before leaving Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh spent twelve days in a garden outside the city, where streams of visitors came to bid Him farewell. In this garden, Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed that He was the Manifestation of God for this Day. For centuries to come, this twelve-day period in April will be celebrated as the Festival of Ridván, the anniversary of the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh of His world-embracing Mission.



Sultán 'Abdu'l-Aziz
of the Ottoman Empire



Nicolaevitch Alexander II,
Czar of Russia



Franz-Joseph,
Austrian Emperor



Napoleon III,
Emperor of the French



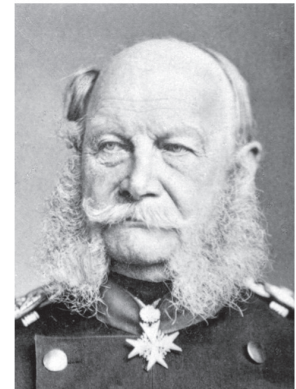
Násiri'd-Dín Sháh
of Persia



Pope Pius IX



Queen Victoria
of England



William I,
King of Prussia

Bahá'u'lláh's next place of exile was Constantinople and, later, Adrianople, both cities in today's Turkey. From Adrianople, Bahá'u'lláh, a prisoner and an exile, sent letters to the kings and rulers of the world bidding them to uphold justice and to use their power to put an end to misery and war.



In Adrianople, as before, Bahá'u'lláh's fame spread among the inhabitants of the region, and the government decided to banish Him even farther away to the prison-city of 'Akká. This was the prison to which the worst criminals and agitators of the land were sent, never to be heard of again.



The conditions of imprisonment were extremely severe. Some of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh traveled great distances to 'Akká but were not allowed to enter His presence. They could only catch a glimpse of Him from afar as He waved to them from the window of His prison-cell.



Gradually conditions improved as growing numbers of people in the region came to recognize Bahá'u'lláh's power and majesty. During the last years of His life, He lived in the Mansion of Bahjí outside the city walls. In 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh revealed volumes of guidance for humanity, including the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, His Most Holy Book.



In May 1892 Bahá'u'lláh passed away. His resting place in Bahjí, now surrounded by beautiful gardens, is the most Holy Spot on earth. Every year, thousands from around the world visit His resting place to pay their respects and to pray and meditate in the tranquil surroundings.

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Ruhi Institute
Email: instituto@ruhi.org
Website: www.ruhi.org