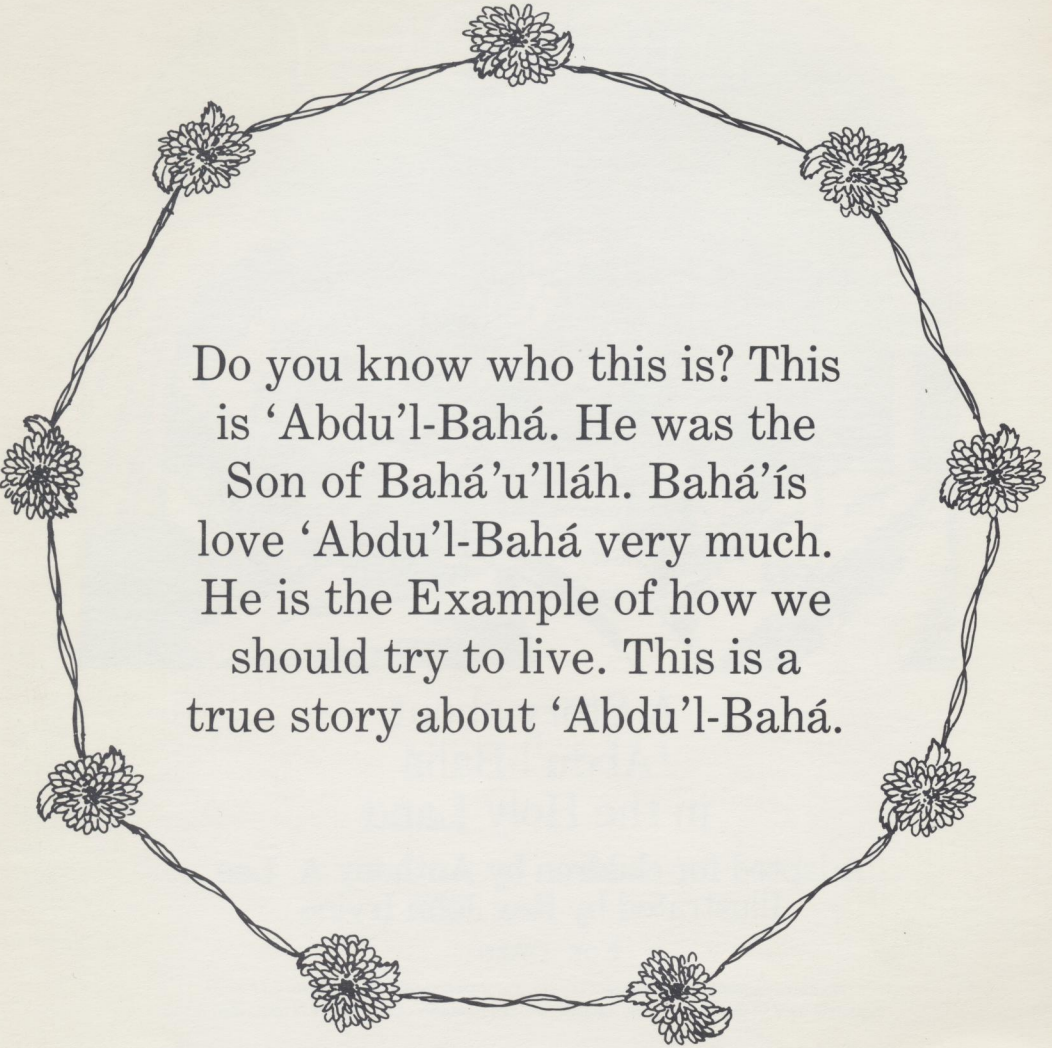


the proud helper

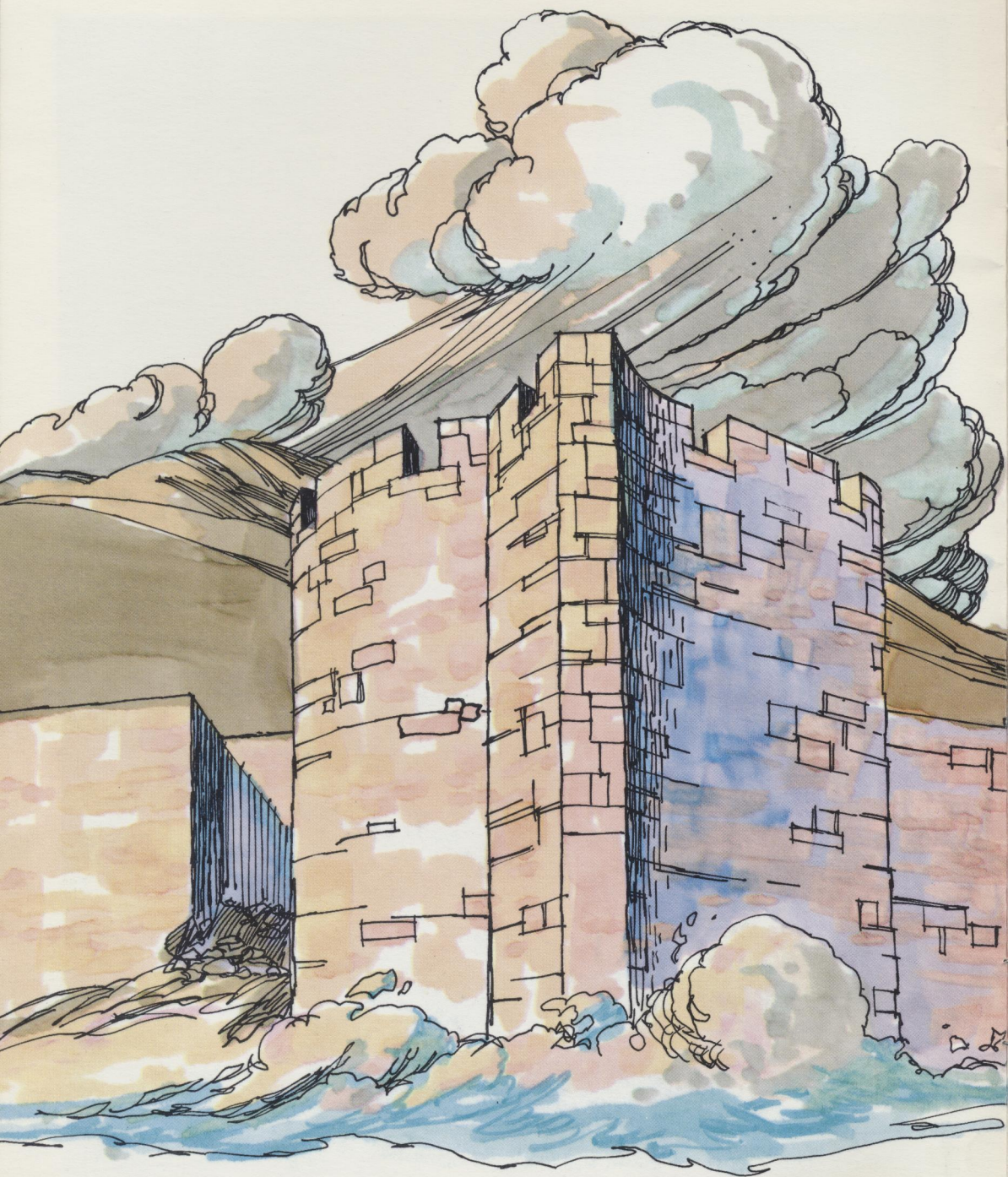
A Story about
'Abdu'l-Bahá
in the Holy Land





Do you know who this is? This
is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He was the
Son of Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'ís
love 'Abdu'l-Bahá very much.
He is the Example of how we
should try to live. This is a
true story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá.





For many years of His life,
'Abdu'l-Bahá lived in the Holy Land, in
the city of Akká. For much of this time
He was a prisoner and could not leave
the city. But still, He did all that He
could to help others.





‘Abdu’l-Bahá often visited the poor people in ‘Akká. If they needed food or clothes, He would bring them these things.

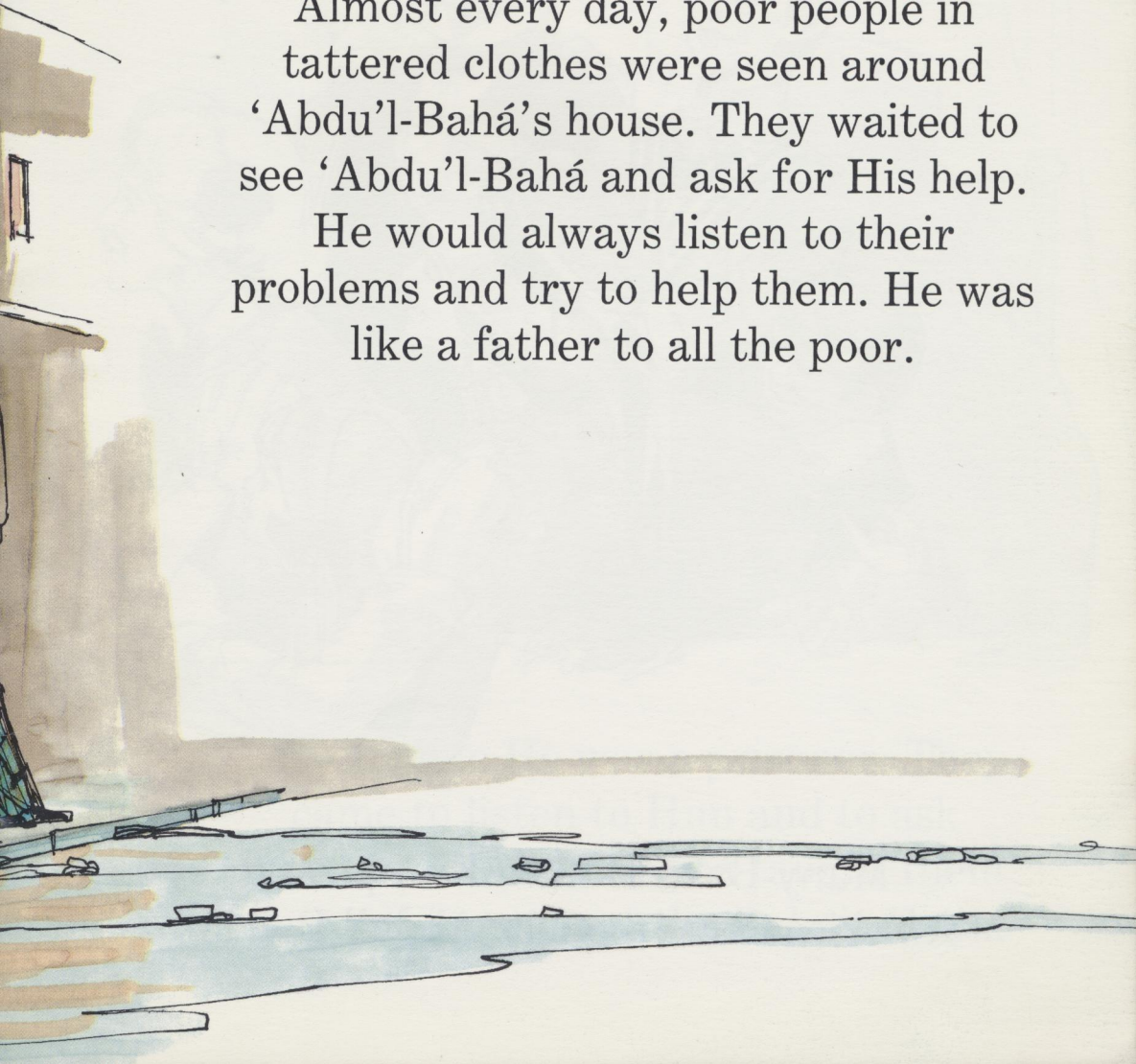


If they needed money, He would
give it to them.



If they were sick, He would call a
doctor or care for them Himself.



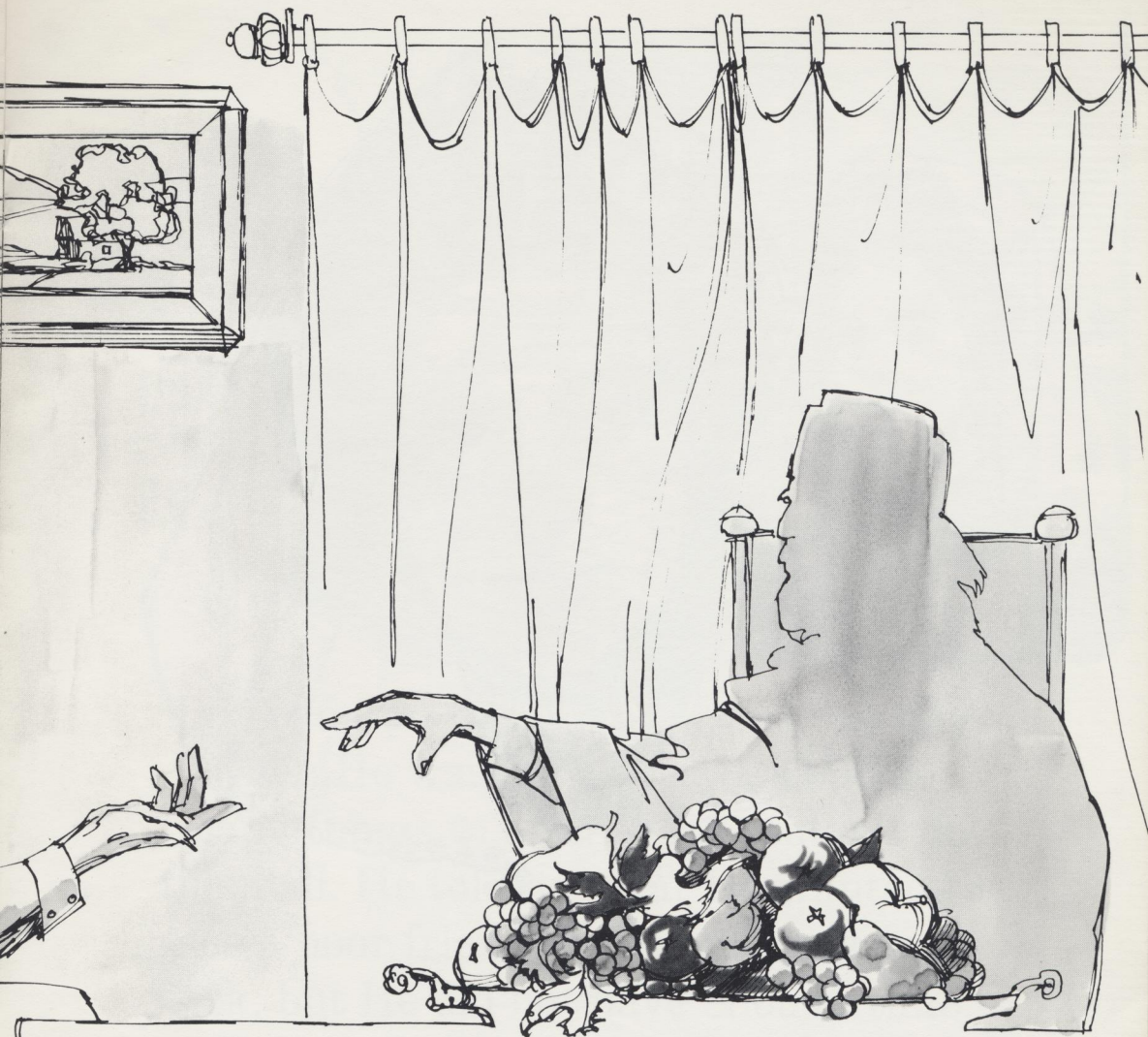
A watercolor illustration of a body of water, possibly a river or a bay, with several small boats or rafts floating on it. On the left side, there is a building with a yellowish-brown facade and a small window. The background is a light, hazy sky.

Almost every day, poor people in
tattered clothes were seen around
'Abdu'l-Bahá's house. They waited to
see 'Abdu'l-Bahá and ask for His help.

He would always listen to their
problems and try to help them. He was
like a father to all the poor.



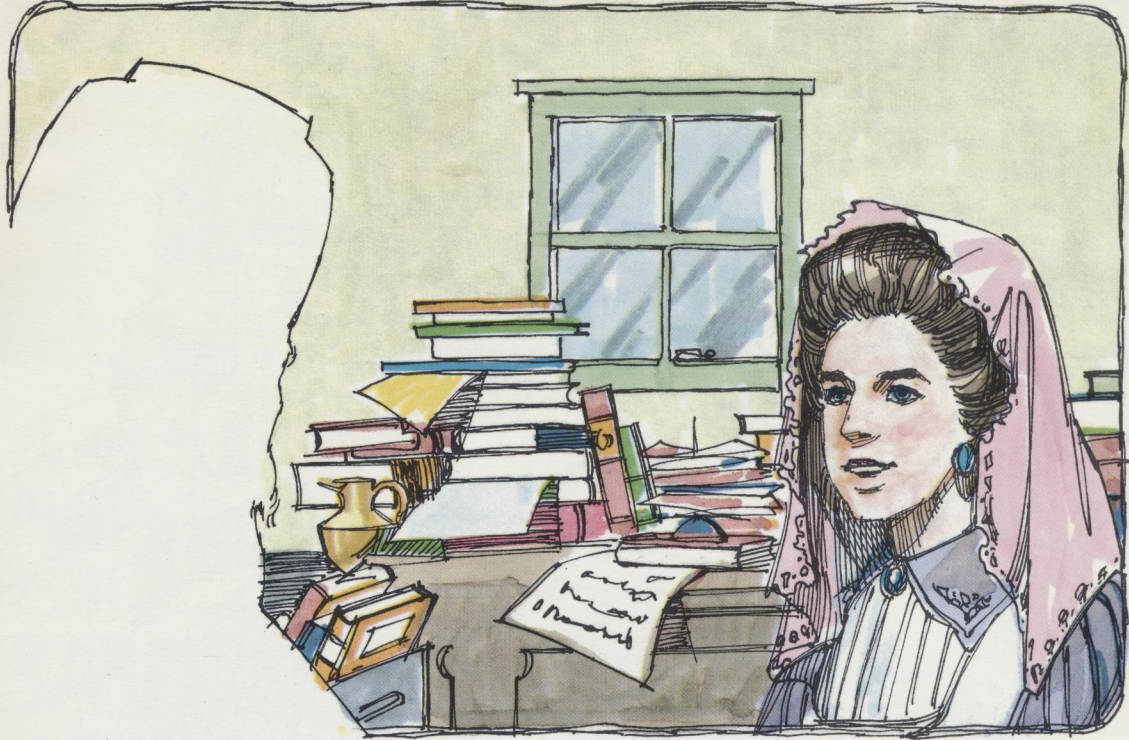
Many Bahá'ís from Europe and America came to visit 'Abdu'l-Bahá in



‘Akká while He was a prisoner. They came to listen to Him and to ask questions. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá taught them many things about the Bahá’í Faith.



One lady who came to 'Akká was Lua Getsinger. She came to see 'Abdu'l-Bahá with some Bahá'í friends. She loved 'Abdu'l-Bahá very much and she would do anything He asked.



Lua came to see ‘Abdu’l-Bahá one day when He was very busy. He had so many things to do that He couldn’t do them all. He told her that He wanted to see a poor friend of His who was very sick, but He did not have enough time.

So He asked her to go in His place. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá told her to take some food to His friend and to care for him, as He had been doing. He told her where to find the man, and Lua started out.



She was happy as she walked through the streets of 'Akká, because she was helping 'Abdu'l-Bahá. She was also proud that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had sent her in His place to help His friend.



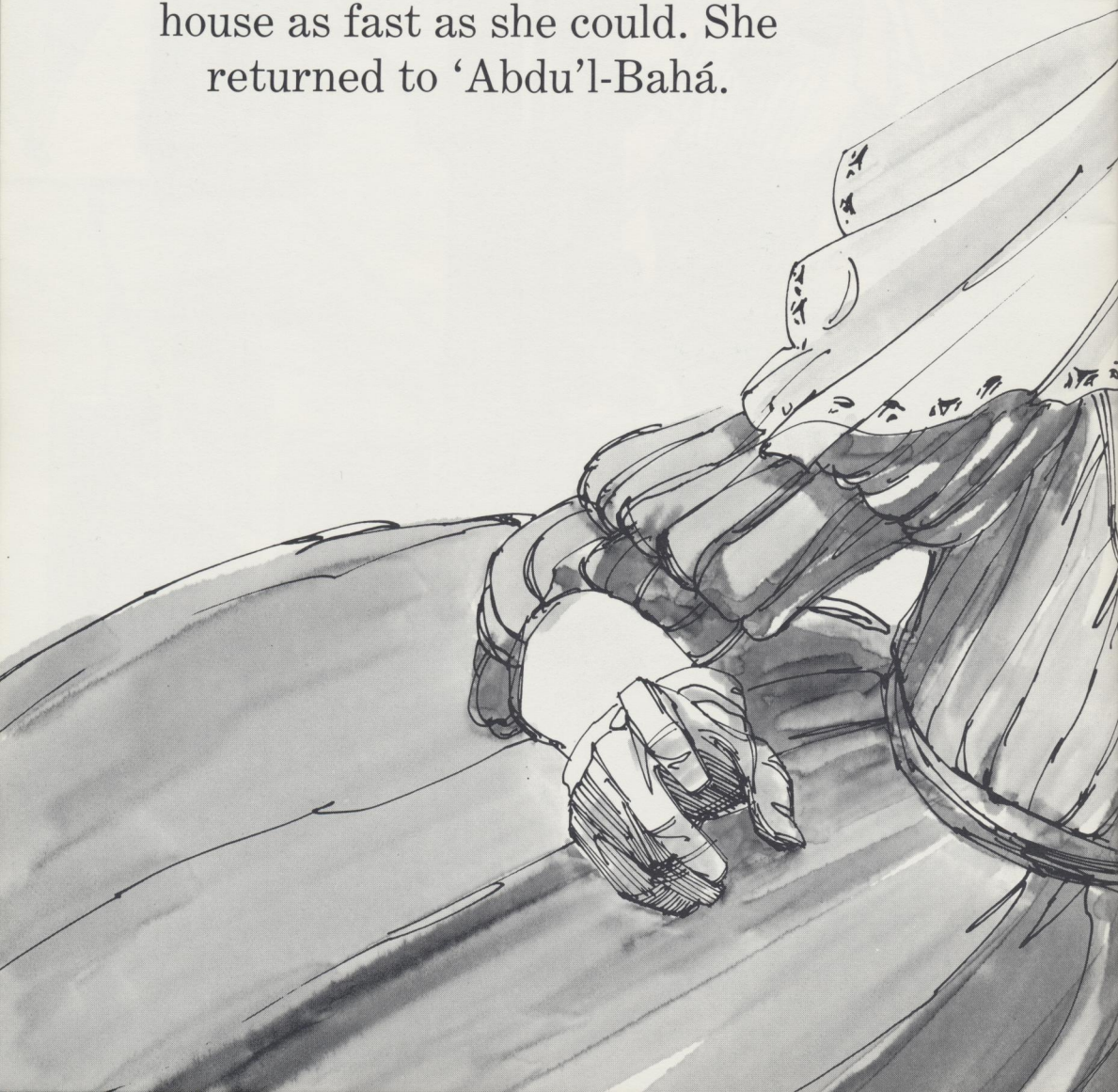
But as she came to the sick man's house, she could see that it was dirty and poor. There was a terrible smell from garbage and filth.

When she went into the house, she couldn't believe her eyes. The man was very sick and could not get out of bed. He looked terrible. The whole house was dirty and messy.





Lua became afraid. She almost
fainted. She thought that she
might catch some terrible
disease, so she ran from the
house as fast as she could. She
returned to 'Abdu'l-Bahá.







“Oh, Master!” she cried.
“Surely you cannot realize to
what a terrible place you sent me.”



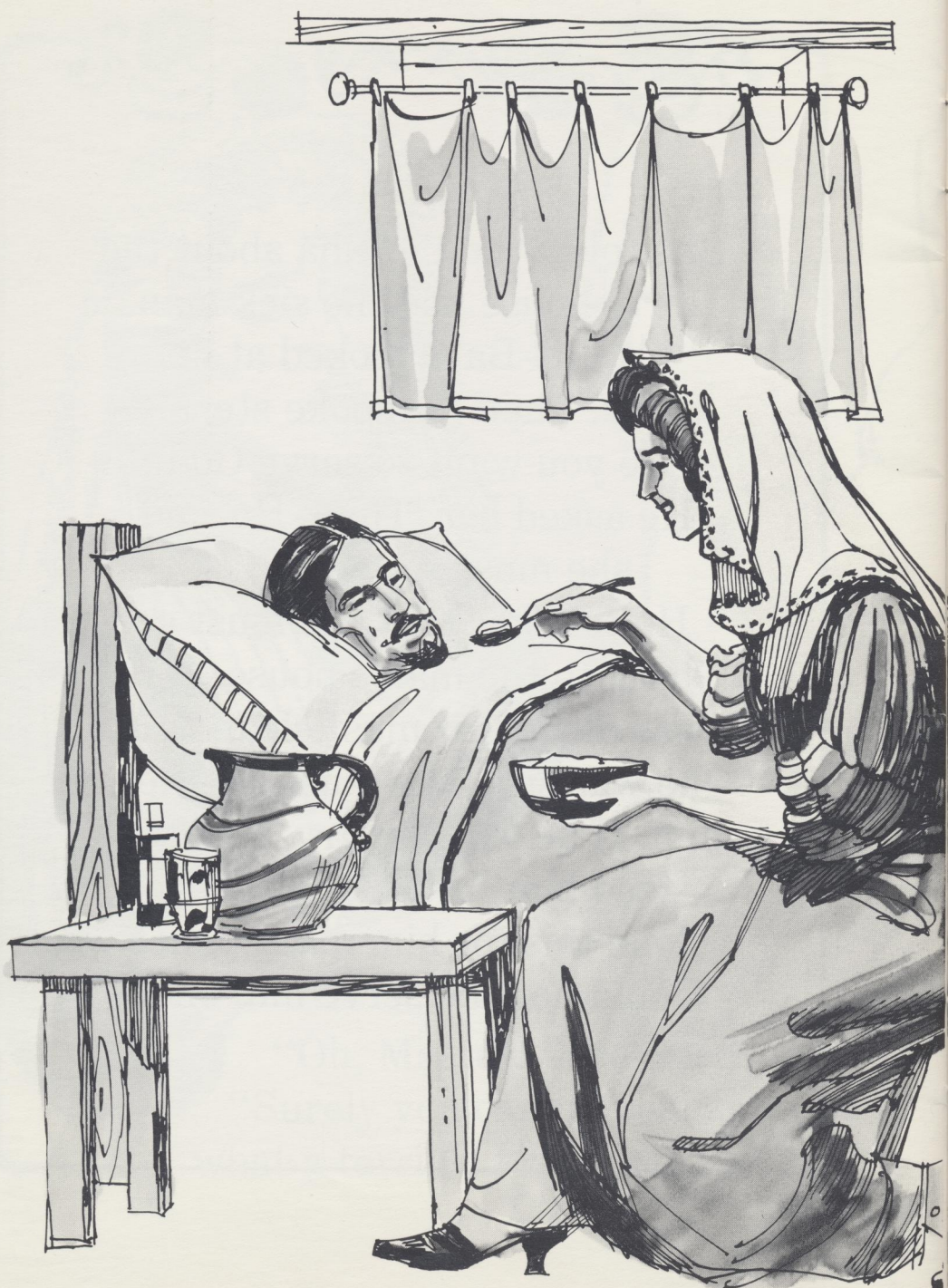
She told 'Abdu'l-Bahá about the dirty house and the sick man.

'Abdu'l-Bahá looked at her sadly. Then He spoke sternly.

"Do you want to serve God?"

He asked her. Then, He said, she must serve others.

He told her that she must go back to the man's house. If it was dirty, she must clean it. If he was sick, she must care for him. If he was hungry, she must feed him. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had done this for him many times. Could not she serve him once?



So Lua returned to the sick man's house. And this time she was ready to serve him. She did all the things that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had asked her to do. She cared for the man and fed him and cleaned his house. In this way, she was helping 'Abdu'l-Bahá and she was serving God as well.



THE PROUD HELPER

A Story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Holy Land

TO THE PARENTS:

This story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Lua Getsinger, one of the earliest American believers, was adapted for children from pages 84-85 of *Portals to Freedom* by Howard Colby Ives. Mr. Ives tells us that the incident was related to him by Mrs. Getsinger herself. The story is intended to give Bahá'í children an impression of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's concern for the poor and, more generally, His service to all mankind.

The Bahá'í teachings tells us that the highest station to which man may aspire is that of servitude. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, whose very name means "Servant of Bahá," was the perfect embodiment of this virtue. He often referred to Himself as a Servant of the servants of God. He protected and supported the poor of 'Akká for most of His life. He visited their homes and served them with His own hands, giving of His own time and energy to see to their needs.

"My name is 'Abdu'l-Bahá," the Master wrote. "My qualification is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. My reality is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. My praise is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Thralldom to the Blessed Perfection is my glorious and refulgent diadem, and servitude to all the human race my perpetual religion. . . . No name, no title, no mention, no commendation have I, nor will ever have, except 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This is my longing. This is my greatest yearning. This is my eternal life. This is my everlasting glory."

(quoted in *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 139)

This story about 'Abdu'l-Bahá can help you teach your children about the Bahá'í standards of love and service. It can also illustrate to them some aspects of the Master's life—His constant service, His concern for the poor, and his desire that the Bahá'ís should follow His example.

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Teacher of Bahá'í children's classes will want to plan some activity in conjunction with this story. Perhaps a fictional situation can be improvised in the classroom and all the children can become involved. The object of the game will be to do what 'Abdu'l-Bahá would have done.

The following situations can be presented and the children assigned various roles. The teacher can then stand back and allow the class to resolve the fictional problem in a Bahá'í way.

SITUATION #1: At lunch on the school yard, one child finds that he has lost his lunch bag and will have to go without food. The other children hear him crying.

SITUATION #2: There has been a highway accident and someone is badly injured. The children (playing the roles of adults) are driving past. They see the accident.

SITUATION #3: A friend is in the hospital and is very ill. Other patients at the same hospital have no one to visit them. Some Bahá'í friends come to visit.



Stories about 'Abdu'l-Bahá
in America:
The Black Rose
The Cornerstone

Stories about 'Abdu'l-Bahá
in the Holy Land:
The Proud Helper
The Unfriendly Governor

Other titles forthcoming:

Stories about 'Abdu'l-Bahá
in Britain

