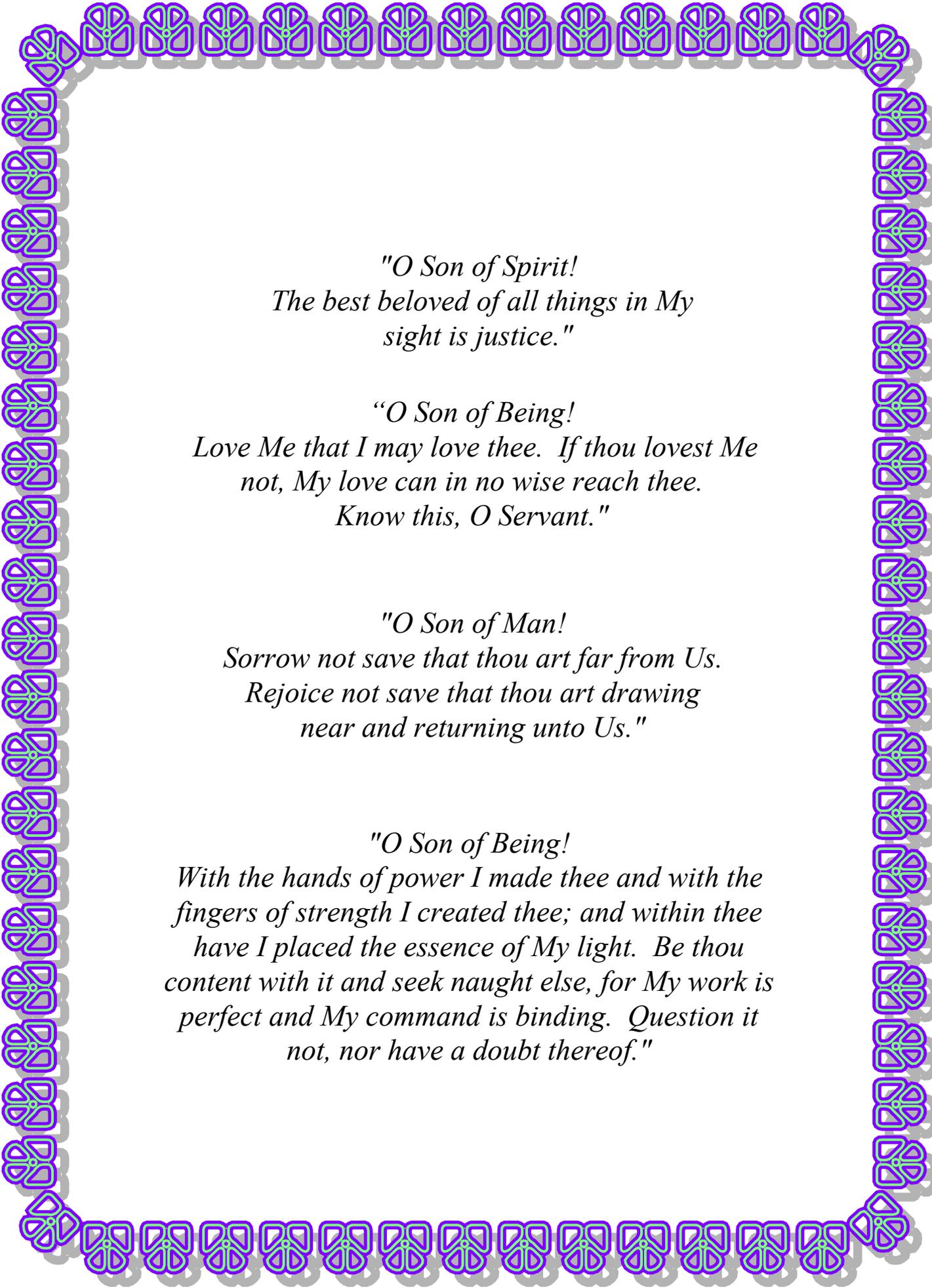


# EXILE



Eventually, Bahá'u'lláh was released from prison but sent away from His country to live in Iraq. For the next forty years He was exiled, imprisoned and bitterly persecuted. Shortly after arriving in Iráq, Bahá'u'lláh spent two years alone in the wild mountains of Kurdistán, praying to God and preparing Himself for the Mission which God had asked Him to accomplish. He had to bring unity to the scattered followers of the Báb and bring this healing message to the whole world. Although He often did not have enough food to eat or a comfortable place to sleep, Bahá'u'lláh was very happy because He was detached from the world and very close to God.

During the first few years Bahá'u'lláh was in Iraq, He wrote two of His most important books. One is a small book, which He named the Hidden Words. In this book God speaks to our souls. Here are a few of the verses from this book:



*"O Son of Spirit!  
The best beloved of all things in My  
sight is justice."*

*"O Son of Being!  
Love Me that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me  
not, My love can in no wise reach thee.  
Know this, O Servant."*

*"O Son of Man!  
Sorrow not save that thou art far from Us.  
Rejoice not save that thou art drawing  
near and returning unto Us."*

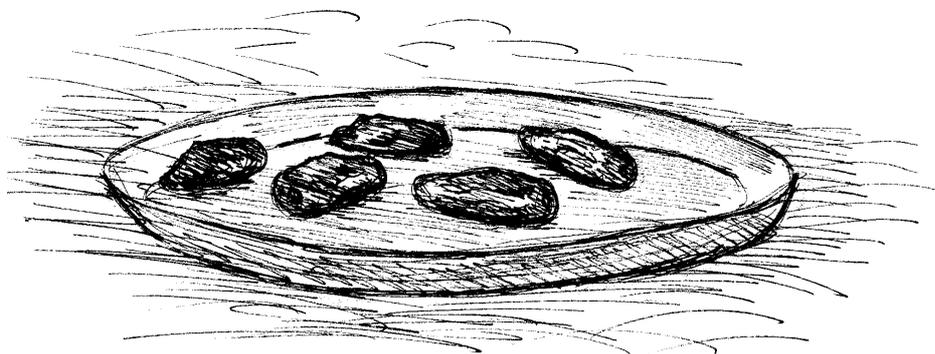
*"O Son of Being!  
With the hands of power I made thee and with the  
fingers of strength I created thee; and within thee  
have I placed the essence of My light. Be thou  
content with it and seek naught else, for My work is  
perfect and My command is binding. Question it  
not, nor have a doubt thereof."*

The second book is called the Book of Certitude. In this book Bahá'u'lláh explains how there is really only one religion, which is revealed little by little by all the Messengers of God. He says we should use our brains as well as our hearts to understand. Above all else, we should be sincere and mean what we say. Bahá'u'lláh also said that in this Day we do not need priests or mullas to tell us what to believe: we can read the Holy Writings and think about them for ourselves.

Because of this book, the followers of the Báb began to behave better and to love each other more. One of them wrote that they were so happy that they did not mind if there was not enough food to eat, and sometimes as many as ten of the friends would share a few dates for their meal. They would even wear each other's shoes and clothes and nobody would mind or even notice.

Many important people began to visit Bahá'u'lláh, including princes of the royal family. One of the princes said that when he was in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh he felt he had entered Paradise.

In 1863, just before He was ordered to leave Baghdad, Bahá'u'lláh told some of the believers about the Mission which God had given to Him when He was in the Síyáh-Chál.



## Questions:

- a) Where was Bahá'u'lláh sent?
- b) How many years did he suffer?
- c) Where did Bahá'u'lláh spend two years?
- d) What did He do there?
- e) What was the Mission that God asked Him to do?
- f) Bahá'u'lláh wrote two books at this time. Can you name them?
- g) Can you learn one of the verses quoted from the Hidden Words?
- h) Do you know what the Book of Certitude is called in Persian?
- i) Can you name three things which Bahá'u'lláh said in the Book of Certitude (the Kitáb-i-Iqán)?
- j) What happened when the followers of the Báb read the Book of Certitude?
- k) What does "certitude" mean?
- l) What did the prince say he felt when he was with Bahá'u'lláh?
- m) When did Bahá'u'lláh tell some of the believers about the Mission that God had given Him?