

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Declaration in the Garden of Ridván

## A Brief Timeline

### The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

#### 1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tihrán, Iran

#### 1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

#### 1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán

#### 1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

#### 1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

#### 1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

#### 1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

#### 1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

#### 1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

In 1853, Bahá'u'lláh and His family endured a harsh exile to Baghdád, Iraq, from their homeland in Persia (now Iran). Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, Muslim leaders wanted to diminish His influence as a leader in the Bábí Faith. The Bábís followed a Messenger of God known as the Báb ("Gate" in Arabic), who taught that a new Messenger from God would soon arrive.

Many Bábís in Persia had been killed for their faith, and the Bábís living in Baghdád feared persecution. They didn't meet each other in public. But Bahá'u'lláh visited the Bábís and let people know that He was a Bábí. His courageous example inspired others, and they began to venture out. Soon people from all walks of life were drawn to Bahá'u'lláh's loving presence. They sought His wisdom and advice.

But in time, the Muslim authorities again felt threatened by Bahá'u'lláh's prominence in the city. In 1863, it was announced that He was being sent to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Those who knew and loved Him were devastated. People flocked to His house to say goodbye, but His home was too small. A friend invited Him to use his garden on the Tigris River. Bahá'u'lláh and some of the Bábís gathered in the garden on April 22, 1863.

Bahá'u'lláh's departure was a sad occasion, but something amazing happened on that day. Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Promised One foretold by the Báb. His followers



Bahá'u'lláh crossed the Tigris River to the rose-filled Garden of Ridván to say farewell to friends and to make a magnificent announcement.

were overjoyed. The farewell gathering became a wondrous spiritual occasion, and the garden became known as the Garden of Ridván ("Paradise" in Arabic).

For 12 days, Bahá'u'lláh met with friends who visited Him in the garden, including the governor himself. He admired Bahá'u'lláh greatly and asked how he could help with His journey. Bahá'u'lláh only requested that the Bábís in Baghdád be treated with kindness. The governor readily agreed.

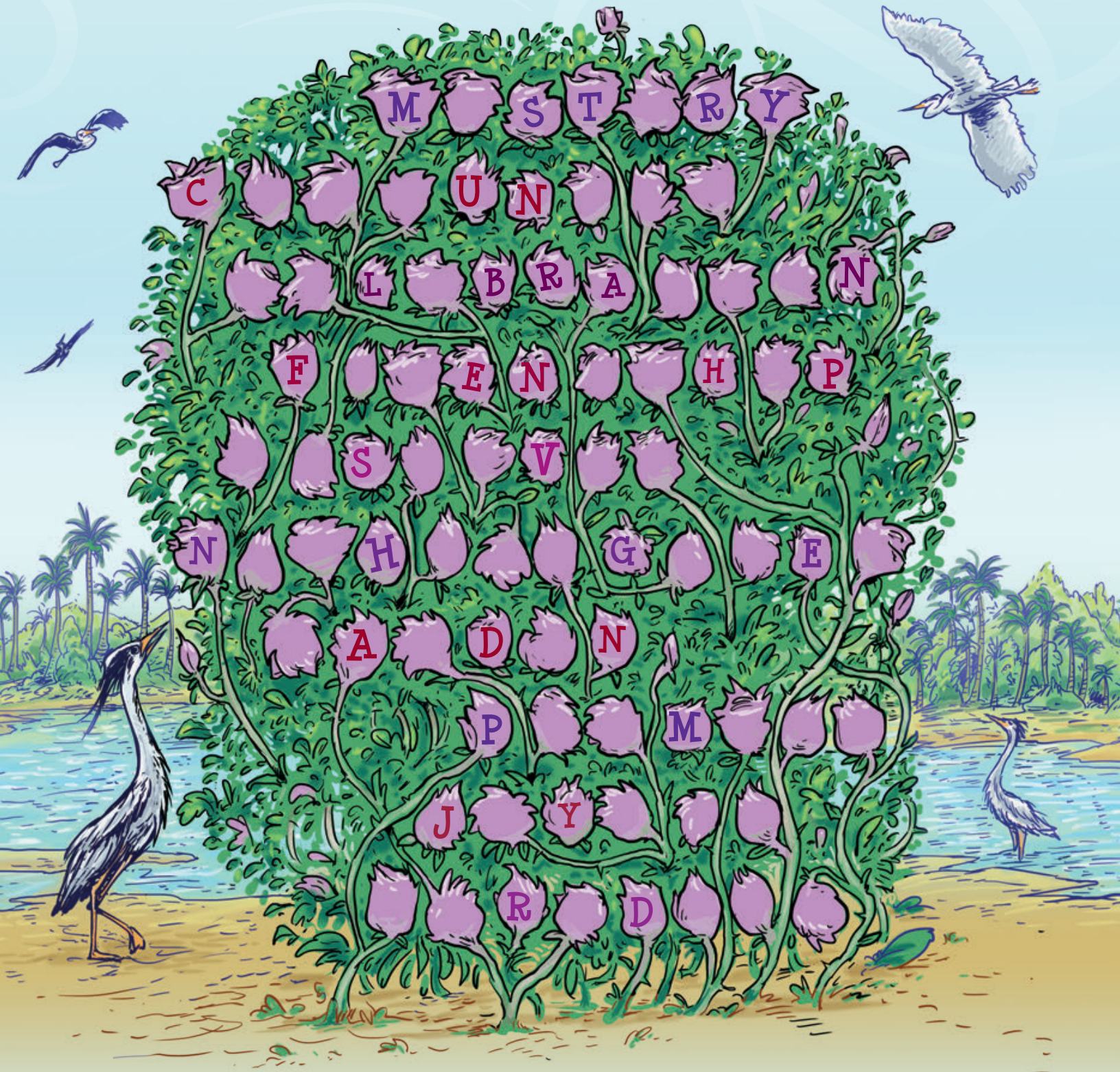
Each day, gardeners would pick roses and place them in Bahá'u'lláh's tent. The flowers were piled so high that people couldn't see over them! Bahá'u'lláh had the roses taken to friends in Baghdád. At night, He walked and chanted prayers among the songs of nightingales.

Today, Bahá'ís around the world joyfully celebrate the Festival of Ridván, which Bahá'u'lláh named the "Most Great Festival."



“In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .” — Bahá’u’lláh

In the rose bush, discover words related to the story of Bahá’u’lláh’s declaration in the Garden of Ridván. Fill in the blank roses with letters. Connected roses have the same letter.







# Roses of Love



*"In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold." —Bahá'u'lláh*

**I**magine learning that a new Messenger of God is living on Earth, but His identity is a mystery. In the mid-1800s, a Messenger of God called the Báb told His followers, the Bábís, that another Messenger would soon come.

In April 1863, in Baghdád, Iraq, the mystery was solved in a place called the Garden of Ridván. Bahá'u'lláh, a Persian nobleman, announced that He was the Messenger of God promised by the Báb. He said that a new Messenger would not appear for another 1,000 years. He also forbade the use of violence to defend or promote religion, and He indicated that it

was the beginning of a new era for humanity. The Bábís were overjoyed with His announcement.

Bahá'u'lláh spent 12 days in the Ridván Garden before departing for Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey. Every day, gardeners laid roses in the center of Bahá'u'lláh's tent. The pile grew so high that visitors couldn't see over it.

The Festival of Ridván is celebrated from April 21 to May 2. The first, ninth, and twelfth days (April 21, April 29, and May 2) are Holy Days on which work or school should be suspended. Around the world, Bahá'ís celebrate Ridván with prayers, parties, and other festivities.

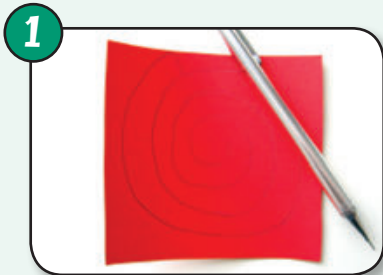


## Paper Rose Perfection

Create paper roses in different sizes and colors, and use them as decorations for Ridván or other special events. Display them in a bowl as a centerpiece, glue them to a wreath made from cardboard, or hide them around a room for guests to find.

**You'll Need**

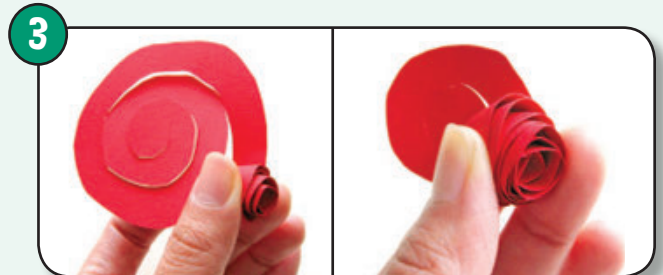
- 4" x 4" (10 cm x 10 cm) squares of colored paper
- pencil, scissors, and glue



Starting from the center of the paper, draw a spiral about 1/2" (1.3 cm) wide and continue until you reach the edge.



With scissors, trim off excess paper around spiral. Then cut along the line you've drawn until you reach the middle.



Starting from the outside, roll the paper spiral. Keep rolling until you reach the round part at the center.

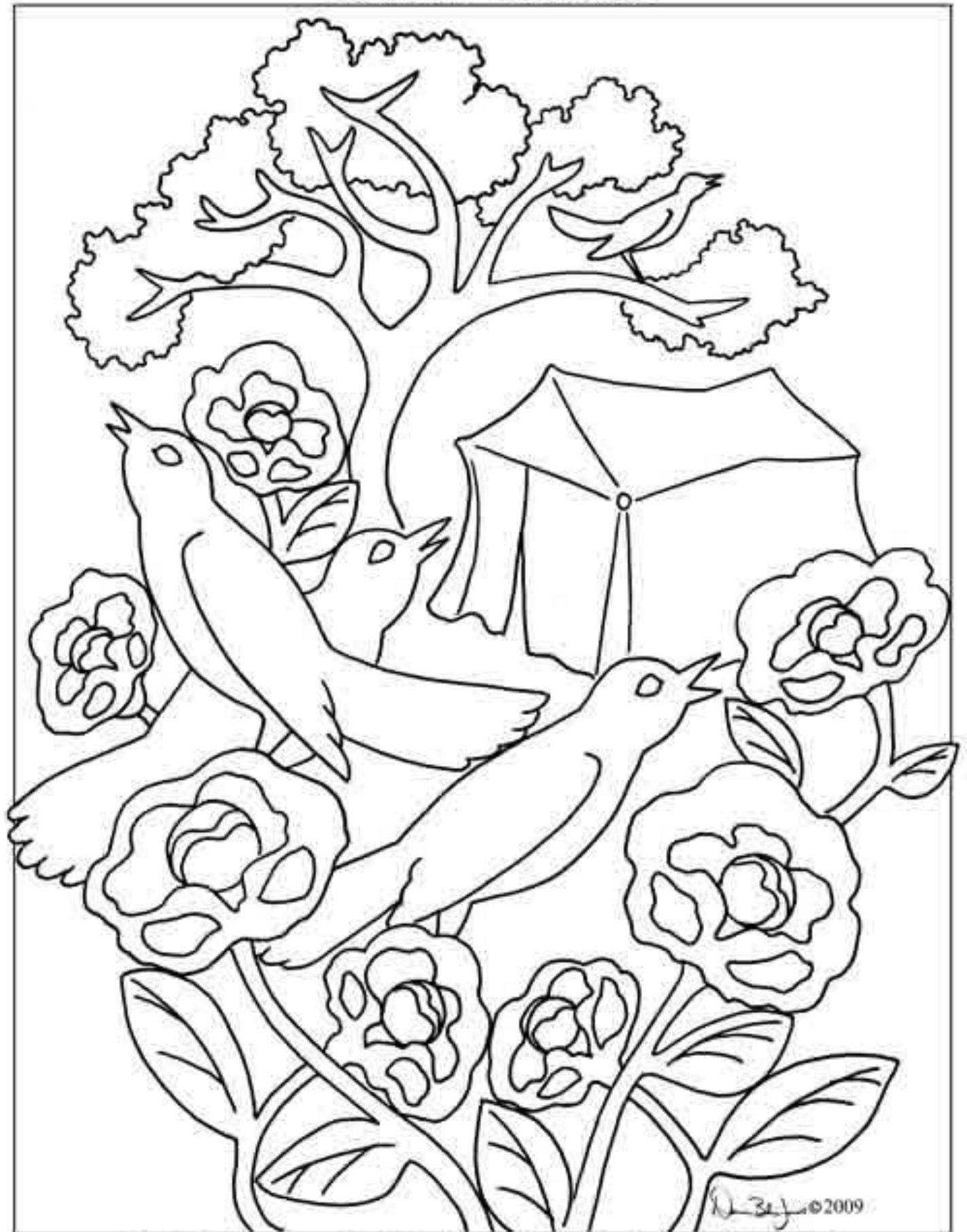


To secure the flower, place a drop or two of glue between the flower and the rounded end underneath it. Let dry.



**TIP** Make a 4" x 4" rose, then try papers between 2" x 2" (5 cm x 5 cm) and 6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm). Adjust the width of the spiral accordingly, so it circles the sheet about four times.

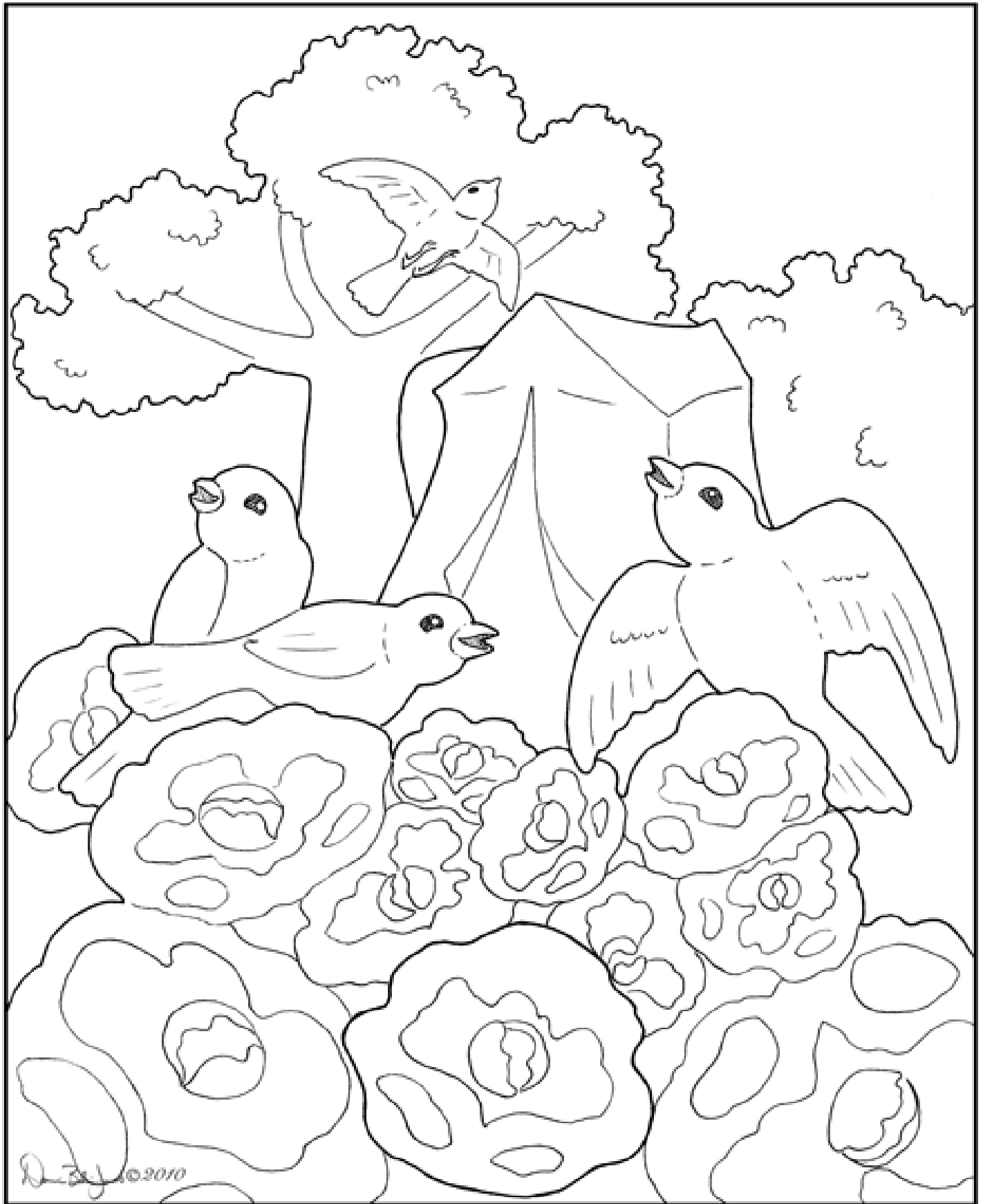
# Ridvan - Paradise



"Great is thy blessedness, O earth, for thou hast been made the footstool of thy God,  
and been chosen as the seat of His mighty throne."

-Baha'u'llah

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