Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace
Garden of Paradise

What if you couldn't see trees or plants for nine long years? This happened to Bahá'u'lláh, Who loved nature from childhood. Officials who wanted to stop His new religion sent Him to the prison-city of 'Akká, in what is now Israel. From 1868 to 1877, He didn't see a single blade of grass.

When Bahá'u'lláh was finally released, He visited a beautiful garden that His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and others had prepared for Him outside of 'Akká. The fragrant flowers and fruit trees brought Bahá'u'lláh great joy. He wrote, "Every tree uttered a word, and every leaf sang a melody." He called it Ridván, which means "Paradise" in Arabic.

One day, a swarm of locusts began eating the trees. The gardener, Abu'l-Qásim, was distraught. Bahá'u'lláh smiled and said, "The locusts must be fed; let them be." Still, Abu'l-Qásim was upset to see the destruction, and he begged Bahá'u'lláh to do something.

Bahá'u'lláh then said to the locusts, "Abu'l-Qásim does not want you; God protect you." He shook the hem of His robe, and the locusts flew away. To this day, the Ridván Garden remains a paradise for all who visit it.

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

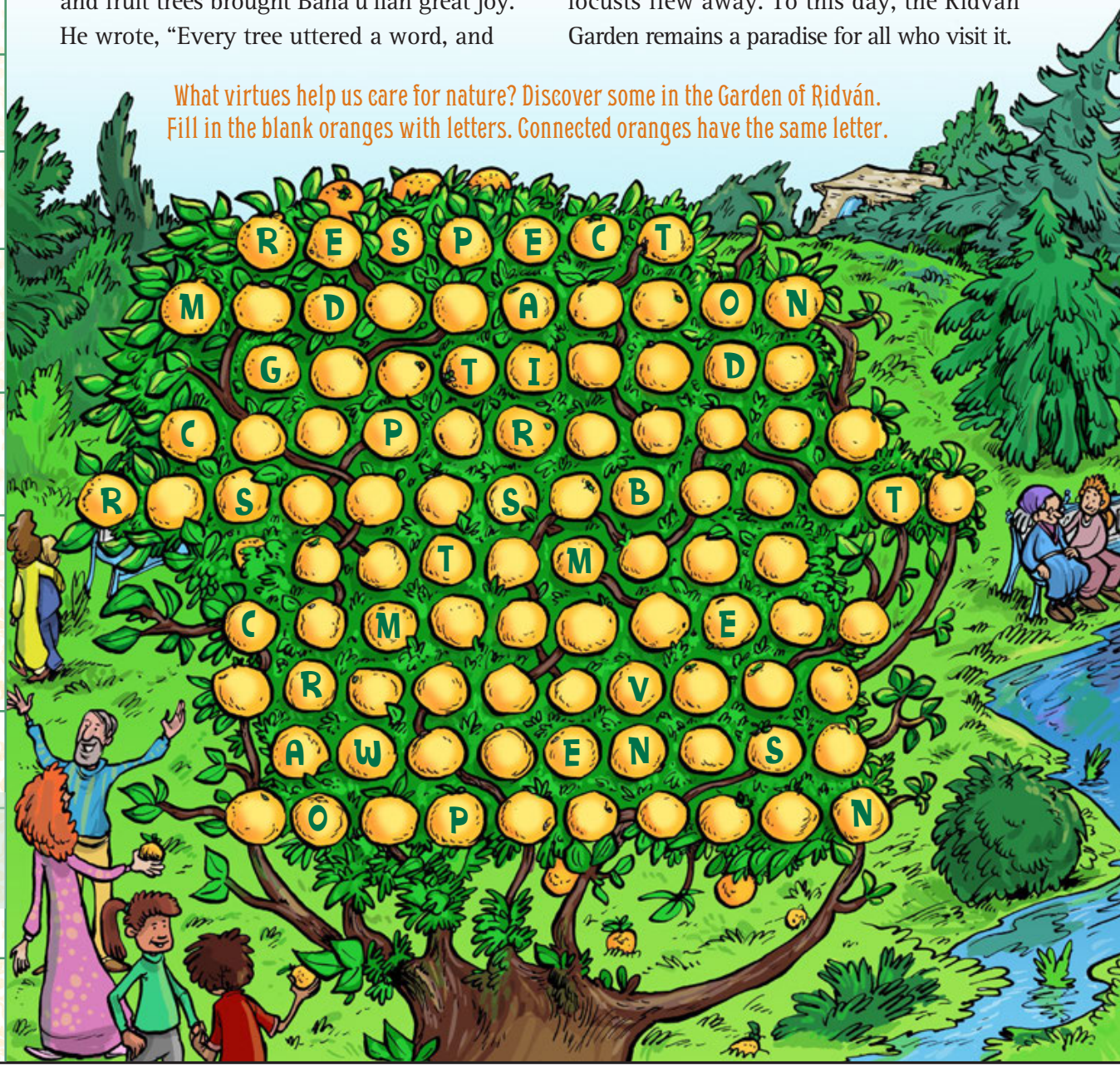
1863–1868
Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

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.

What virtues help us care for nature? Discover some in the Garden of Ridván.
Fill in the blank oranges with letters. Connected oranges have the same letter.



The story of the locusts is based on an account of a conversation with Abu'l-Qásim and may not reflect Bahá'u'lláh's exact words.

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 28