

Soon after entering the Prison, We sacrificed one of Our Branches<sup>1</sup> for a Cause that none hath comprehended, save God, thy Lord. The world hath never had, nor doth it have now, any worth or value and so, that Branch, in the prime of his youth, offered up his life and sought to attain another station. I swear by the Day-Star that shineth above the horizon of inner meaning! Were the station of thy son who hath ascended unto God to be revealed, to an extent smaller than a needle's eye, all would be overcome with joy. The world should be left to its heedless peoples. A station to whose evanescence all created things have attested hath never been and will never be worthy to be lingered upon, especially by detached, assured, and pure souls, who at every moment desire to take their flight but who, owing to the exigencies of a consummate wisdom, must evince patience for but a few days. All matters are in His hands and all authority lieth in His grasp. Sorrow not, for the one true God is ever with thee. Wherefore occupy thyself in these fleeting days with service to God in a state of utmost joy and happiness. He, verily, speaketh the truth and leadeth the way. He is the Mighty, the Gracious.

—Bahá'u'lláh

1 Bahá'u'lláh's son, Mírzá Mihdí. ↩