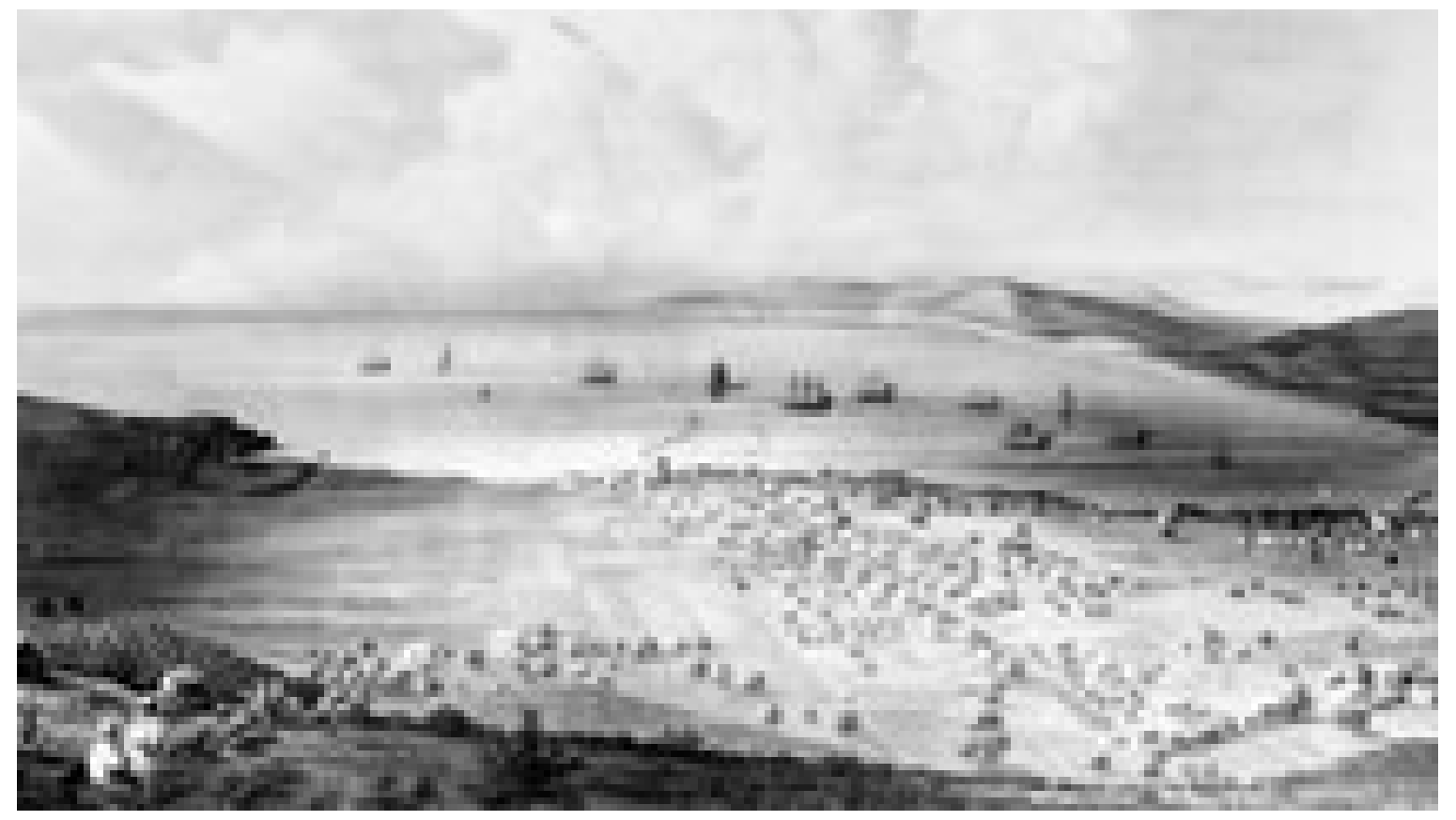




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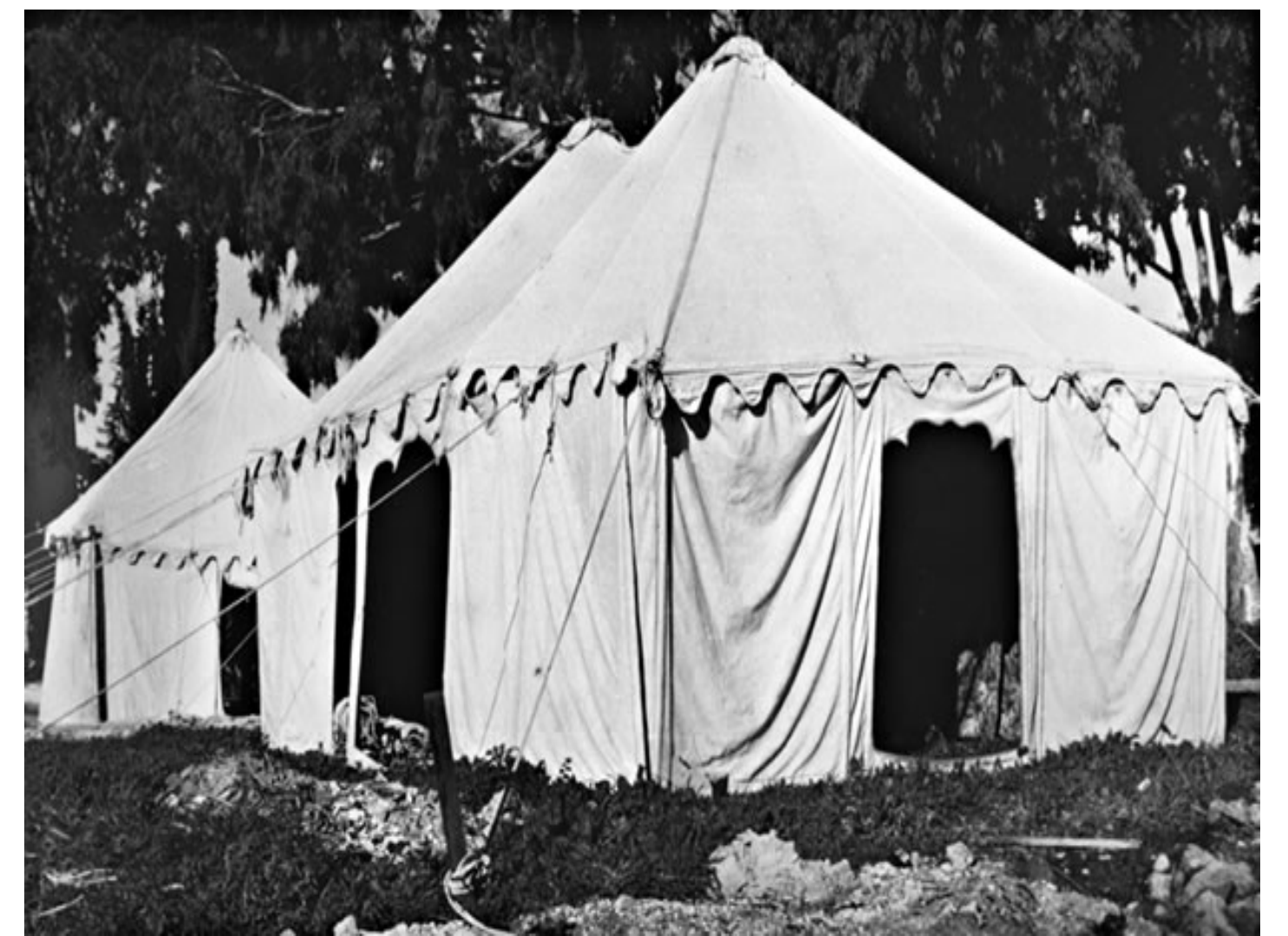
In the 1860s, members of the Society of the Temple, a religious group from Germany commonly called the Templers, moved to Haifa because they were convinced that Christ would soon return to Mount Carmel. They came to the Holy Land to await His arrival.



In Haifa, the Templers built their homes at the foot of Mount Carmel, where they believed Jesus would appear. The inscription above a window on one of the houses says in German, "The Lord is nigh – 1871."

Bahá'u'lláh stopped briefly in Haifa on his journey to 'Akká in 1868 and again on three occasions between 1883 and 1891. During one visit He pitched His tent a short distance from this house.

Bahá'u'lláh stayed in various places during his visits to Haifa, including this spot at the foot of Mount Carmel. He also visited the cave of Elijah where centuries before, a Christian order had built a monastery in the expectation that Christ, returning in the glory of the Father, would bless it with His presence.



Described as a "holy mountain" in sacred books and records as far back as 1600 BC, Mount Carmel is also mentioned in prophecy and was extolled by Isaiah: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."



During His visit to Mount Carmel in 1891, Bahá'u'lláh stood near a circle of cypress trees and showed 'Abdu'l-Bahá where the tomb of the Báb should be built.

The sacred remains of the Báb had been carefully hidden in Iran since His execution in 1850. In 1899, at the instruction of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, they were brought to the Holy Land and, in 1909, 'Abdu'l-Bahá fulfilled his Father's wishes by placing them in their final resting place on Mount Carmel.



The Shrine of the Báb on Mount Carmel is the second holiest spot for Bahá'ís and is visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year.

On his last visit to Haifa in 1891, Bahá'u'lláh pitched His tent near the Carmelite Monastery and wrote the first part of the Tablet of Carmel, the charter for the establishment of the world administrative and spiritual center of the Bahá'í Faith.

The Tablet opens with a powerful pronouncement:

"All glory be to this Day, the Day in which the fragrances of mercy have been wafted over all created things, a Day so blest that past ages and centuries can never hope to rival it, a Day in which the countenance of the Ancient of Days hath turned towards His holy seat. Thereupon the voices of all created things, and beyond them those of the Concurrence on High, were heard calling aloud: 'Haste Thee, O Carmel, for lo, the light of the countenance of God, the Ruler of the Kingdom of Names and Fashioner of the heavens, hath been lifted upon thee.'"

The establishment of the Bahá'í World Centre confirmed Bahá'u'lláh's vision for the slopes of Mount Carmel – now the heart of a worldwide Bahá'í community of more than five million members.

