

# THE BĀB



**Dayspring Bahá'í Magazine for Children**  
**Issues 102 and 103**

**A special double issue for the  
Bicentenary of the Birth of the Báb**

## *Dayspring*

**Produced under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly  
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom**

*Dayspring* is produced three times a year on an educational non-profit basis and seeks to nurture a love for God and mankind in the hearts of children. Material by children and adults of stories, plays, poems, artwork and news is warmly welcomed. Please note that under the terms of the Child Protection Act regarding publishing images of children, permission to do so is required from a parent or guardian.

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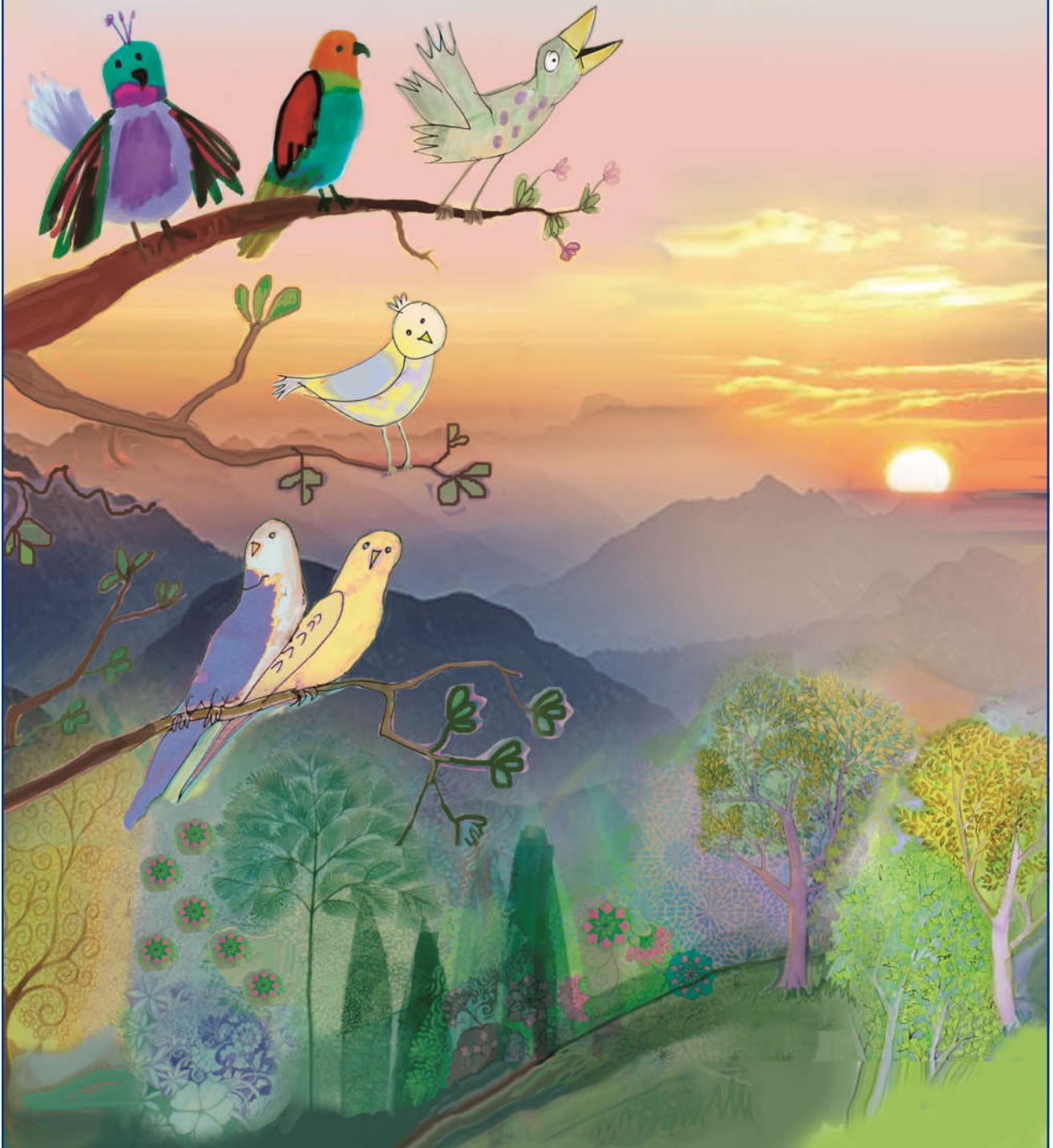
*The theme for this issue is the Birth of The Báb, 200 years ago.*

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The Bab, the Exalted One,  
is the Morn of Truth.

'Abdu'l-Bahá



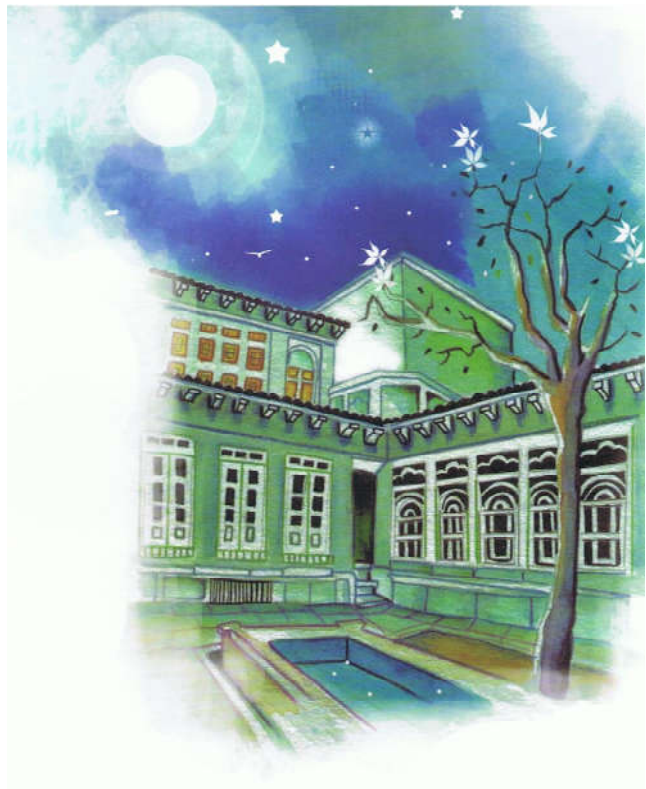


## Childhood

The Báb was born in Shíráz on 20 October 1819 in the house owned by His uncle Siyyid 'Alí. Several members of the extended family lived there, and this is where the Báb spent the first few years of His childhood.

He then moved with His mother and father to the house next door, which had a small courtyard with a pool in the centre and a well in the corner. Later an orange tree was planted there. The garden was surrounded by high walls and was very peaceful. A door opened from this house to the one where the Báb's uncle and other members of the family lived, and they were often in and out of each other's houses.

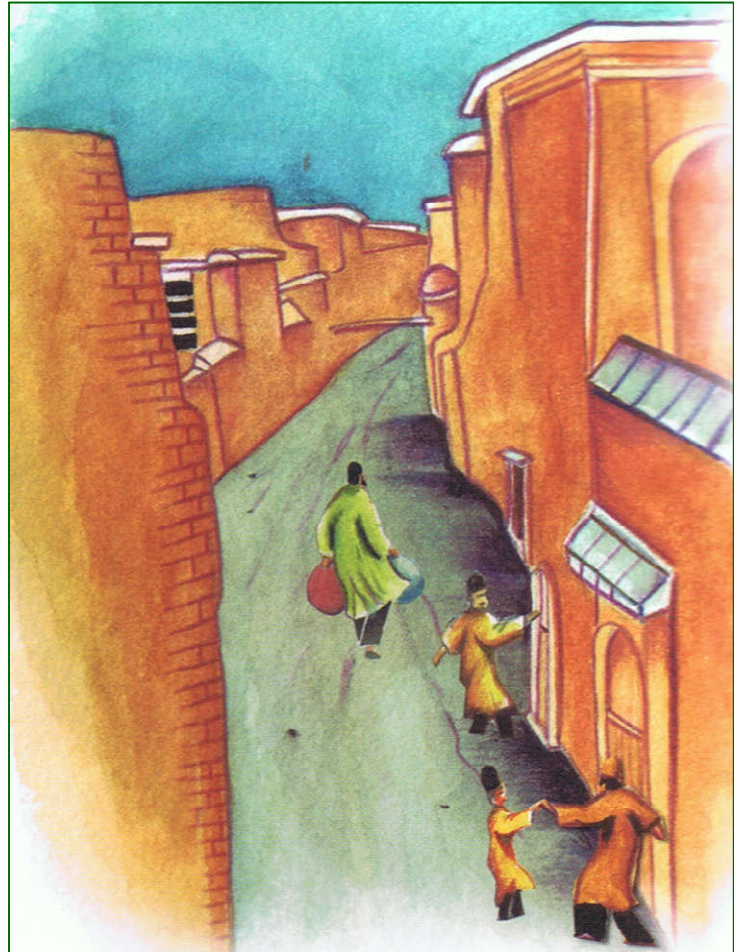
The Báb's father was a cloth-merchant and he worked hard to provide for his wife and child. But, sadly, he died and the Báb was so young at the time He had no memories of His father when He grew up. The Báb did not have any brothers or sisters, but he played with His cousins who lived next door. As He grew older, He began to spend more of His time praying and thinking about God.





## Schooldays

A small group of boys ran laughing through the narrow streets of Shíráz . They had an hour off school and were pleased to be away from the hot classroom where they had to sit cross-legged on the floor day after day, learning things by heart and practising their handwriting. It was nearly 200 years ago and schools were very different then.



One of the other pupils had not turned up for school that morning, so the teacher had asked the boys to go to the house of their friend and fetch Him. The teacher smiled as he thought of the absent pupil. The boy was not like other boys. He knew things without being told and was so kind and gentle everybody liked Him. His name was 'Alí Muhammad, Whom we know as the Báb, a name meaning the Gate.

The children became quiet as they came to the small house where the boy lived. One of them knocked at the door. It was soon opened by a servant, who said that their young friend would not be coming to school that day as He was busy praying. The boys slowly returned to school and told their teacher, who wasn't surprised as the Báb was often late for school because He was praying. As the teacher listened to his pupils reciting their lessons, he remembered the first day the Báb came to school, when He was five years old. He was a beautiful child with large, calm eyes. One day the teacher asked Him to recite the first words in the holy Qur'án, "In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful." The Báb had hesitated, asking to be told what the words meant first. The teacher pretended he did not know, so the Báb said He would explain them, which He did, so beautifully that his teacher was astonished and took the Báb to His uncle's office, which was near the school. The uncle and the teacher knew each other well.

"He is not to be treated as a mere child," the teacher told the uncle. "In Him I can already see signs of that mysterious power that only the Promised One can reveal. Surround Him with your loving care. Keep Him at home, for He is in no need of teachers such as I."

His uncle looked sternly at the Báb. Although he loved Him very much, he did not understand His spiritual greatness. He told his nephew to follow the example of the other pupils and to be silent and listen to His teacher!

The Báb promised to do what His uncle said and was taken back to school. But He was different from other boys. His knowledge did not come from books. It came from God.

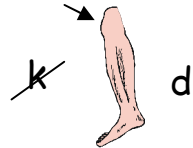
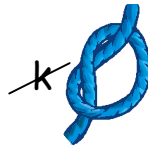
What does this message tell us about the Báb?



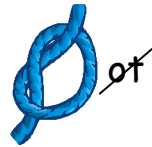
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Báb



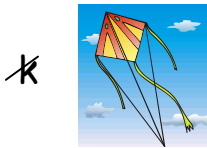
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God.

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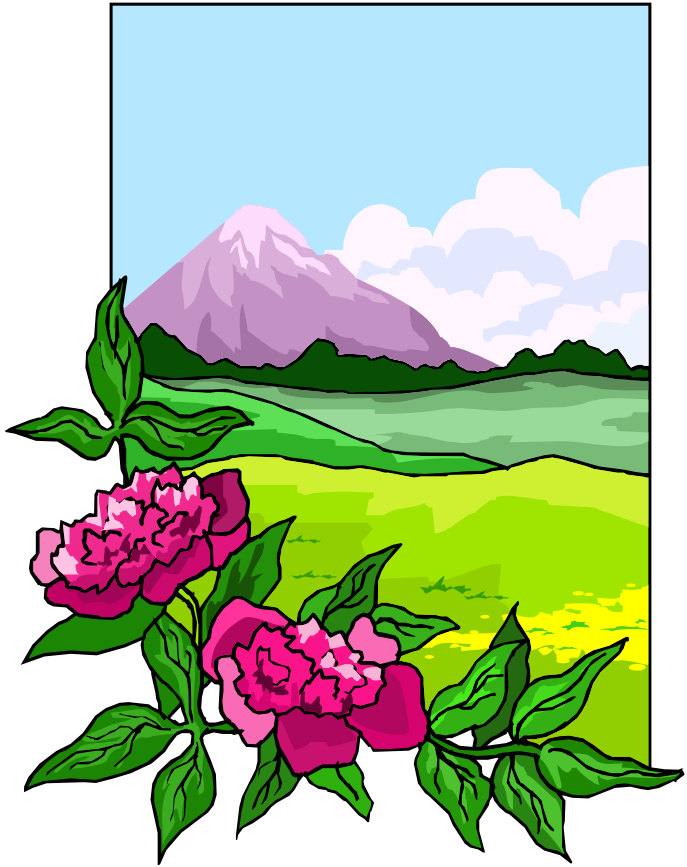
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God.



## On the Mountain

When the Báb was nine years old His uncle took Him on an outing to visit a holy shrine high up a mountain. They set off just before dawn with a group of male relatives and friends, and by the time they arrived, everyone was very tired. After having something to eat and saying their evening prayers, they all went to bed early.



Around midnight, the Báb's uncle woke up and looked across to where his Nephew should have been sleeping. But the bed was empty! It was dark and he couldn't find the Báb anywhere and thought that He may have fallen off the mountain.

Just as he was giving up all hope, he heard the sweet voice of a child chanting prayers, and by the light of the moon he saw the small figure of the Báb standing alone on the deserted mountainside, pouring out His heart in praise of God.

## Picnics in the Park

Every Friday was a holiday when schools and businesses closed. The mornings were usually spent at the mosque listening to the weekly sermon being given by a mullá or another religious leader. In the afternoons it was the custom for boys and men to gather in parks or the countryside for picnics. They would tell each other stories and there was always a lot of laughter. Women and girls made their own arrangements to be together, for men and women did not mix socially unless they were related and in the privacy of their homes.

One of the favourite places for these excursions was a garden where a famous poet called Háfiz was buried. A brook of clear water flowed nearby and young people liked to go to this garden and recite his poems out loud. Everyone in Persia loved poetry, even if they had never been to school and could neither read nor write.

The Báb often went with His teacher and friends on these outings. After a while He would disappear, but they always knew where to find Him. He would be in some quiet spot, under a tree, thinking.



## The Báb and the Priests

When the Báb was still very young, He was explaining the meaning of the Holy Scriptures in a way that amazed everyone. And a few years later He was writing explanations of the Holy Scriptures that were being admired by religious scholars everywhere. However, there were some priests who were proud because they had spent many years studying in religious colleges, and they were jealous of the Báb, Who had left school when He was ten.

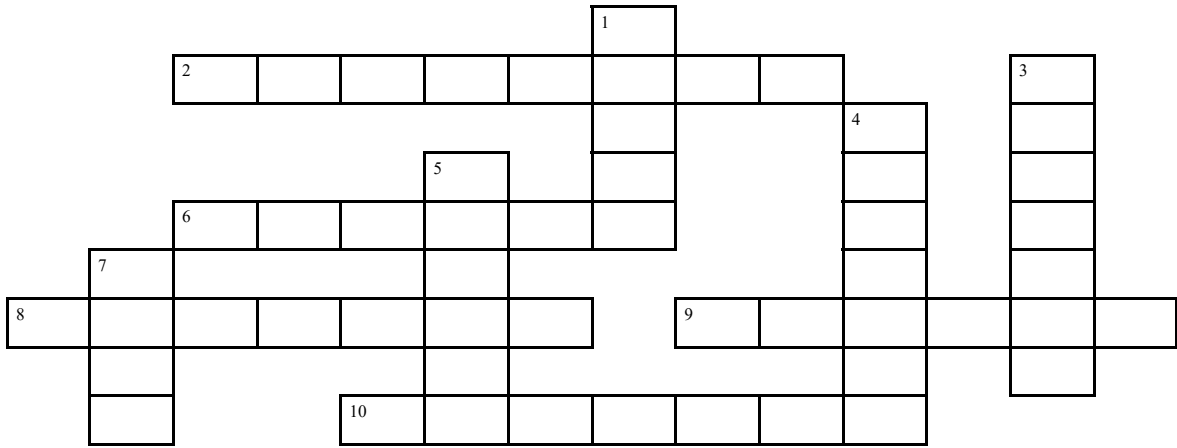
One of the Báb's uncles was worried because of the unrest being caused by his Nephew's writings. He asked a wise friend of his, called Siyyid Javád, to speak to the Báb and tell Him to stop writing about religious matters as it was causing too much trouble.

"Give some good advice to my Nephew," he said to Siyyid Javád. "Tell Him not to write things which can only arouse the jealousy of some people. These people cannot bear to see a young merchant of little schooling show such learning."

But Siyyid Javád refused to tell the Báb to stop. He realized that there was something very special about the Báb and said to the uncle, "We are earthbound and He is heavenly."



You can solve this crossword by looking at the stories on the last few pages.



**Clues across:**

- 2. The Báb's uncle took Him to visit a holy shrine up a high m\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. The Báb was born in the city of S\_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. The Báb's uncle found Him p\_\_\_\_\_ on the mountainside.
- 9. Which day of the week was a holiday? F\_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. The Báb knew so much that the priests were j\_\_\_\_\_.

**Clues down:**

- 1. What is the name of the poet in 'Picnics in the Park'? H\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Every Friday was a h\_\_\_\_\_ in Persia.
- 4. On some Fridays the Báb would go for p\_\_\_\_\_ in the park.
- 5. What tree did the Báb plant in his courtyard? o\_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. The Báb planted an orange t\_\_\_\_\_.





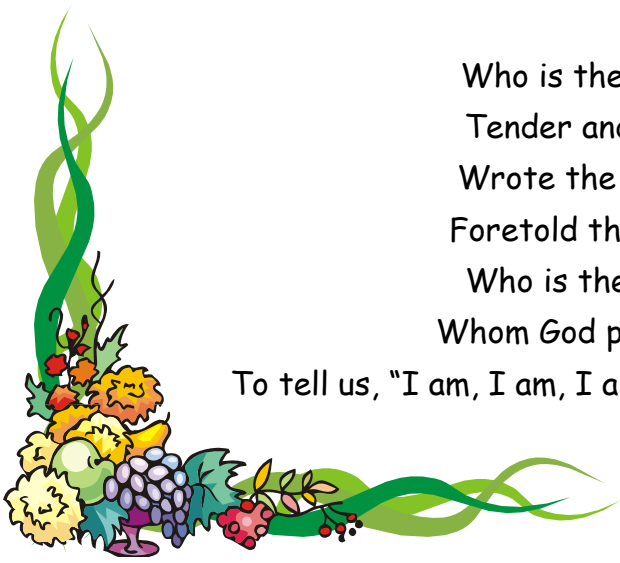


## Who is the Child?

Who is the Child,  
'Ali Muhammad,  
Born in Shiráz, city of roses?  
Who is the Child  
Grown straight and true  
Who told us, "I am, I am, I am the Promised One"?

Who is the Child,  
Raised by His uncle,  
October born,  
Humble and gentle?  
Who is the Child we bow before  
Who told us, "I am, I am, I am the Promised One"?

Do you know Him?  
Have you heard His name?  
Does your heart feel  
The beauty of His presence?  
Do you love Him  
As did Mullá Husayn?  
If you've found what you've been seeking, you can tell me:



Who is the Child,  
Tender and holy,  
Wrote the Bayán,  
Foretold the Glory  
Who is the Child  
Whom God prepared  
To tell us, "I am, I am, I am the Promised One"?

# Who is the Child?



In this song about the Báb someone sings the main part, and other people softly sing the echo. Everyone can sing the choruses.

v.1 (Echo .....)

Who is the Child (Who is the Child) 'Al - í Mu - ham - mad,

5 (Echo .....)

Born in Shi - rász, (Born in Shi - rász,) ci - ty of ro - ses?

9 (Echo .....)

Who is the Child (Who is the Child) grown straight and true, Who told us,

13 Chorus

"I am, I am, I am - the Prom-ised One?

20 v.2 (Echo .....)

Who is the Child, (Who is the Child) raised by His un - cle,

24 (Echo .....)

Oct - o - ber born, (Oct - o - ber born,) hum- ble and gen - tle?

28 (Echo .....)

Who is the Child (Who is the Child) we bow be - fore Who told us,

32 Chorus



"I am, I am, I am - the Prom-ised One?

39 v.3

(Echo .....)



Who is the Child, (Who is the Child,) ten-der and ho - ly,

43

(Echo .....)



wrote the Bay - án, (wrote the Bay - án,) fore-told the Glo - ry?

47

(Echo .....)



Who is the Child, (Who is the Child,) Whom God pre - pared to tell us,

51 Chorus

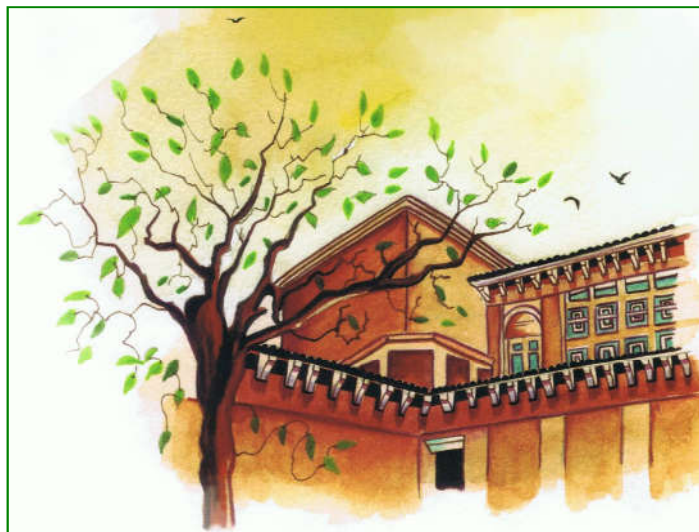


"I am, I am, I am - the Prom-ised One?

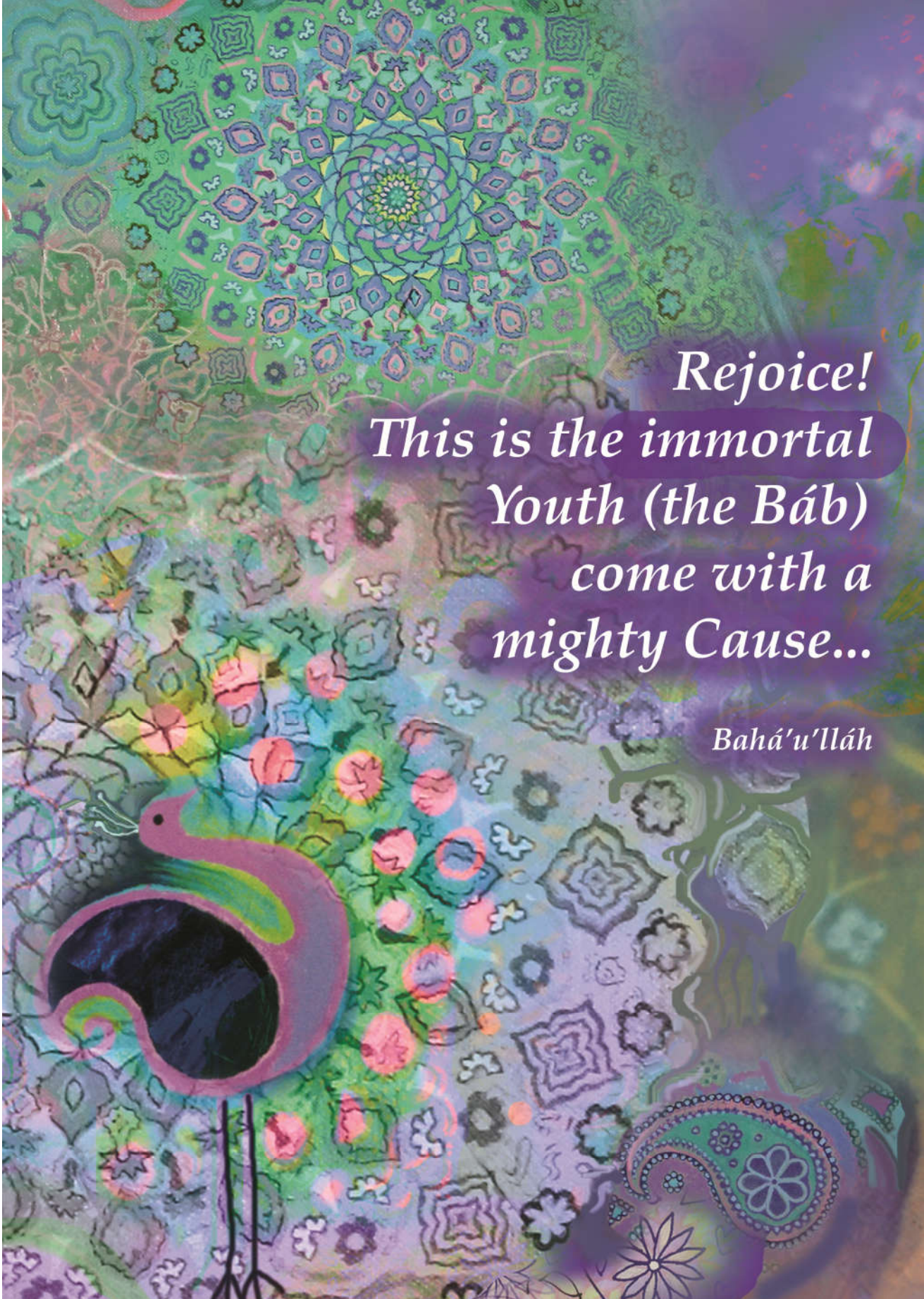
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"I am, I am, I am - the Prom-ised One?







*Rejoice!  
This is the immortal  
Youth (the Báb)  
come with a  
mighty Cause...*

*Bahá'u'lláh*



## The Declaration of the Báb

The Báb was walking in the fields outside Shiráz when He saw three travellers approaching the main gate of the city. One of them was a young man called Mullá Husayn - a brilliant student of a wise religious teacher called Siyyid Kázim, who knew that a new Messenger of God would soon appear on earth.

Siyyid Kázim had recently died and left instructions for his students to immediately search for the Promised One. Mullá Husayn had been the first to obey. With his brother and nephew he had prayed and fasted for forty days and then set out on his search, eventually being drawn as if by a magnet to Shiráz.

It was late afternoon and the sun was low on the horizon when Mullá Husayn rounded the corner of the mountains and saw Shiráz in the valley below. His heart quickened in excitement and he knew he needed to be alone and wait for God to guide his next move. He told his two companions to go on ahead of him, saying that, God willing, he would join them later in time for their evening prayers.

When they left, Mullá Husayn saw the radiant figure of the Báb walking towards him with a warm smile of welcome as though He had been waiting for him. And Mullá Husayn was surprised to find himself being tenderly embraced like a life-long friend!

He was very puzzled. But there was such a quiet dignity about the Báb and such a brightness radiating from Him, that when He invited Mullá Husayn to come to His house to refresh himself and have a meal, he found himself accepting. It seemed that it was not the will of God after all that he should join his brother and nephew.



"Commit them to the care of God," said the Báb. "He will surely protect and watch over them."

They walked through the large arched gateway into the city and along narrow lanes until they came to a small house.

"Enter therein in peace, secure," said the Báb.

Mullá Husayn stepped inside, praying that this meeting would somehow help him in his search.

He found himself in a small and peaceful room. A Persian carpet covered the floor. Along one side red, green and blue glass windows glowed in the low rays of the evening sun. Darkness fell and a lamp was lit, filling the room with golden light. The Báb and Mullá Husayn stood side by side to say their evening prayers.

"I have striven with all my soul, O my God," Mullá Husayn silently prayed, "and until now I have failed to find Thy promised Messenger."

He did not realise that he was standing next to Him!

\* \* \*

When they finished saying their prayers, the Báb asked Mullá Husayn if Siyyid Kázim had given any signs to enable him to recognise the Promised



One. Mullá Husayn repeated what Siyyid Kázim had said about the Promised One being descended from the Family of Muhammad; that He would be between twenty and thirty years old; would not smoke or have anything wrong with Him; would be of medium height and would have knowledge of all things without being taught. "Behold!" said the Báb. "All these signs are manifest in Me!"

Mullá Husayn was still not sure! His soul was pure and understood, but all his great learning in the schools and religious colleges was blinding him to the truth. But the Báb was very patient. He knew that Mullá Husayn was sincere and that he would eventually give his life for the Faith.

As Mullá Husayn hesitated, the Báb said, "Now is the time to reveal the commentary on the Surih of Joseph." And picking up His pen, He began to write at great speed, all the time softly chanting the words as He wrote.

Mullá Husayn listened in astonishment. A few years before, when he had been alone with Siyyid Kázim in his library, he had asked him why a chapter in the Qur'án about the prophet Joseph was called 'The Best of Stories'. Siyyid Kázim had said it was not the time to explain it and that it would become known in the future. Mullá Husayn had secretly decided to ask the Promised One the same question when he found Him. And here was his host explaining the meaning of that same chapter without even being asked!

As Mullá Husayn listened to the music of the Báb's voice and the beauty of the words He was chanting, he was filled with a heavenly joy and knew that the Báb was the One he was seeking, the first of the two Manifestations of God Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kázim had promised would soon appear.

"This very hour," declared the Báb, "will in the days to come be celebrated as one of the greatest and most significant of all festivals."

At that moment it was two hours and eleven minutes after sunset on the evening of 22 May 1844.

Mullá Husayn stayed all through the night listening to the Words of God being revealed by the Báb. He was spellbound and lost all sense of time. All he could see was the shining face before him, which was radiating a love and happiness not of this world.

When morning came the Báb turned to Mullá Husayn, and said:

**"O thou who art the first to believe in Me!  
Verily, I say, I am the Báb, the Gate of God,  
and thou art the Bábu'l-Báb, the Gate of that Gate!"**

\* \* \*

The whole world was changed that night. Every soul was quickened. Through prophecies, dreams and visions many people in both the East and the West knew that something extraordinary had happened, and many poets wrote about it.

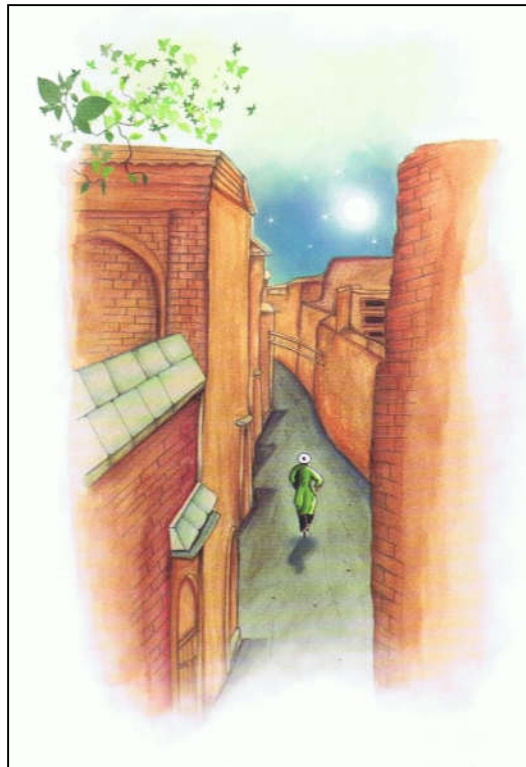
"I was blinded by its dazzling splendour," said Mullá Husayn, speaking of the wonders of that night. "Excitement, joy, awe, and wonder stirred the depths of my soul."

He left the house of the Báb completely changed. Before, he had felt weak and timid; now he felt strong and brave and filled with a gladness he had never felt before. He almost danced down the street to join his brother and nephew, who must have been wondering where he had been all night. He wanted to shout at the top of his voice to all the people in the houses he passed, and beyond them to all the people in the world:

**"AWAKE, FOR LO!**

**THE MORNING LIGHT HAS BROKEN . . .**

**FOR HE WHO IS YOUR PROMISED ONE IS COME!"**





These words were spoken by the Báb to Mullá Husayn. Can you work them out ?

Row 1: ◀ ↑ ⇅ ▶ ▷ ↑ ⇅ ⇒ △ ◀ ◀ ↑ ⇨  
 ---      ---      ---      ---

Row 2: ← ↓ △ ▽ ◀ ◀ ⇅ ⇨ ⇨ ↙ ↓ ⇨ ◁ ⇨ ↓ ⇨  
 ---      ---      ---      ---

Row 3: U ⇨ !      ◻ ⇨ △ ↓ ↙ ▲ , ⇒ ▽ ⇨ ▲ ,  
 --- !      --- ,      --- ,

Row 4: ⇒ ⇨ ↘ ◀ ↑ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ , ◀ ↑ ⇨ ...  
 ---      --- ,      --- ...

Row 5:      ↓↑ ⇨ ◀ ⇨      ⇅ ←      ↓↑ ⇅ ⇨ ...

a	B	b	d	e	f	G	h	I	i	l	M

m	n	O	o	r	s	t	u	V	v	w	y

## The Letters of the Living



Mullá Husayn was not the only person searching for the Báb. Other students of Siyyih Kázim soon arrived in Shiráz searching for the Promised One.

But the Báb had told Mullá Husayn that another seventeen people must find Him for themselves, without any help, and only after that, could they tell other people. These first people to believe in Him were to be called the Letters of the Living.

It was not long before Mullá Husayn's brother and nephew also recognised the Báb. Then thirteen other students of Siyyid Kázim arrived in Shiráz. They had also been praying to be guided to the Truth. One of them was Mullá 'Alí. He saw how happy and contented Mullá Husayn was and guessed he must have found the Promised One.

He begged Mullá Husayn to tell him Who it was, but Mullá Husayn told him he must pray to God for the answer. Mullá 'Alí prayed and fasted for three nights, and then he had a dream. A light appeared in front of him, which moved off into the distance. Mullá 'Alí followed the light and, in his dream, he was led into the presence of the Báb.

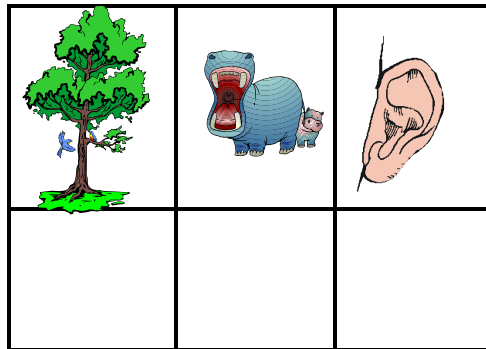
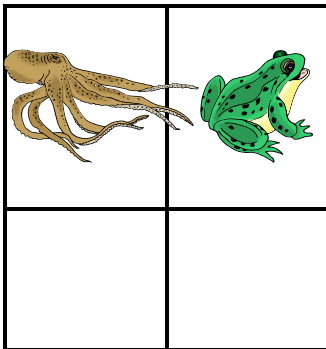
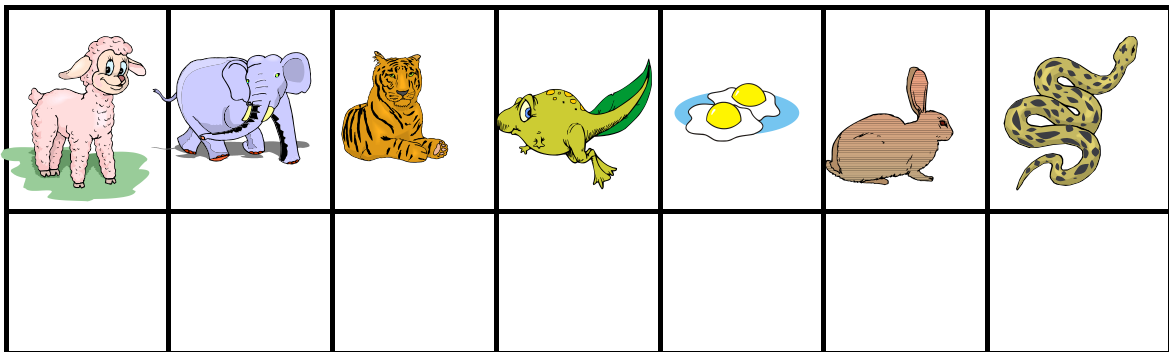
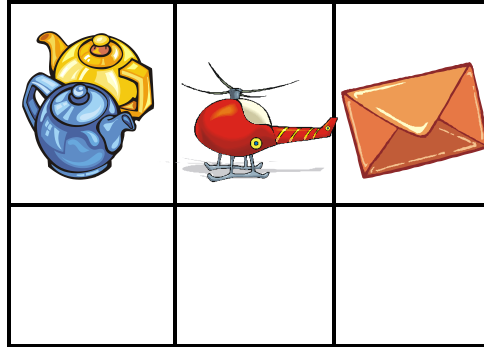
Although it was the middle of the night, Mullá 'Alí ran to wake Mullá Husayn and tell him about his dream. Mullá Husayn lovingly embraced him, and very early the next morning the two of them went to the house of the Báb. When they arrived they found the door open and the Báb's faithful servant waiting to welcome them.

"While it was still dark," said the servant, "my Master called me to Him and told me to open the door of the house. "I am expecting two guests to arrive early this morning," He said. "Give them a warm welcome in My name. Say to them from Me: 'Enter in the name of God.' "

Before long, all the travelling companions of Mullá 'Alí also recognized the Báb. There were now sixteen Letters of the Living. There were just two more to come.



Write the first letter of each picture to see what the first followers of the Báb were called.





Add all the numbers to see how many Letters of the Living there were altogether.



Tails on a  
tiger = 1



Eyes on a  
Frog = \_\_\_\_



Horns on  
A rhino = \_\_\_\_



Toes on a  
foot = \_\_\_\_



Legs on a  
lizard = \_\_\_\_



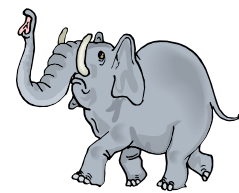
Wings on a bird  
= \_\_\_\_



Horns on a  
unicorn = \_\_\_\_



Feet on a  
fish = \_\_\_\_



Trunks on an  
elephant = \_\_\_\_

1	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____	+	____
---	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------	---	------

=	____
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## Táhirih



When Táhirih was a little girl she quickly learned to read even though she never went to school. When she was older, she especially liked to read books written by wise religious teachers who were talking about the coming of a Promised One from God, Whom people all over the world were expecting to appear. She longed to find this Promised One and asked God to guide her.

One night, after she had said her prayers, she had a dream about the Báb. At the time, she had not known it was the Báb but she knew it was someone very holy. He appeared to her in the sky, dressed in a black cloak and a green turban, with His hands raised high. And He was reciting some heavenly verses from God, one of which she wrote down and remembered.

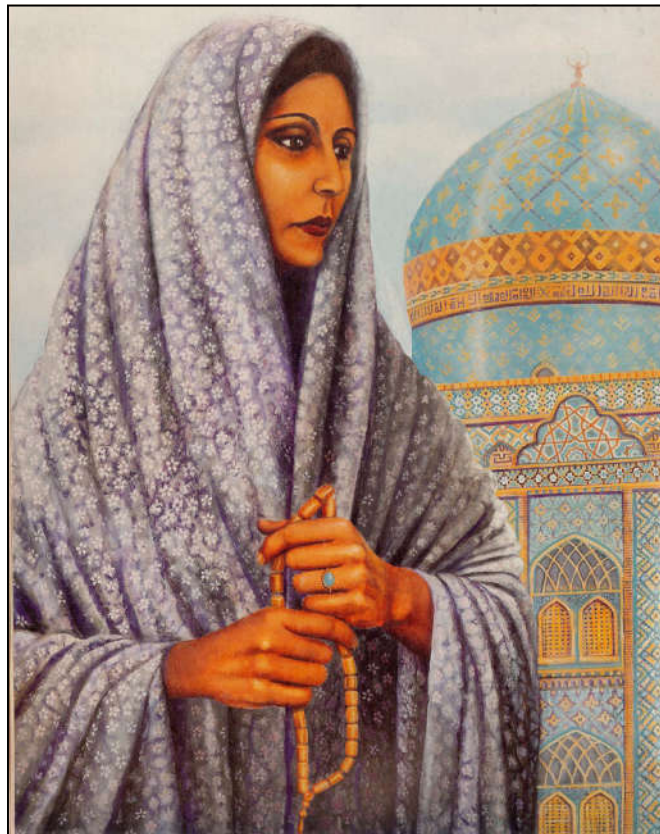
At the same time, her sister's husband was also interested in finding the Promised One and decided to set off to search for Him.

When she heard this, Táhirih wrote a letter addressed to the Promised One and asked her brother-in-law to give it to Him when he found Him, and to also give Him a message.

"Say to Him from me," she said, "The radiance of Thy face flashed forth, and its rays arose on high. Then speak the word 'Am I not your Lord?' and 'Thou art, Thou art,' we will all reply."

Her brother-in-law was eventually guided to Shiráz. He met the Báb and knew He was the Promised One. He gave the Báb the sealed letter from Táhirih and the message. The Báb said that Táhirih was one of the Letters of the Living, one of the first eighteen people to believe in Him.

Except in her dream, Táhirih never did have the opportunity to meet the Báb. But one day when she was reading the beautiful Writings of the Báb, she found the exact verse she had heard Him say in her dream.





## Quddús

It was early in the evening and the Báb was walking towards His house. Mullá Husayn was following behind, when a young man appeared, tired and covered in dust from his travels. It was Quddús, who was a fellow student of Mullá Husayn and was also searching for the Promised One.

When Quddús saw the peace and joy on the face of Mullá Husayn, he ran towards him, embraced him, and excitedly asked if he had found the One they were looking for.

Mullá Husayn tried to calm Quddús. But Quddús was not listening. He was looking at the Báb, Who was walking in front of them.

"Why are you trying to hide Him from me?" cried Quddús. "I can recognize Him from His walk! . . . None other can manifest the power and majesty that radiates from His holy person."

Mullá Husayn was amazed and told Quddús not to say a word to anyone and he would speak to him later. He hurried towards the Báb and told Him about the strange young man and what he had said.

"Marvel not at his strange behaviour," said the Báb. "We have in the world of the spirit been communing with that youth. We know him already. We indeed awaited his coming."

And He said that Quddús was the eighteenth, and last, Letter of the Living.

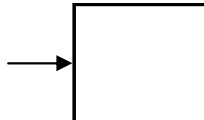




**These are the names of four of the  
Letters of the Living. What are they?**

Write the names of these four things in the boxes  
below the pictures.

The name of  
this shape



12	1	2	3	4	6

7	3	9	15

**90**



10	8	10	6	5	11

13	3	5

14	16	17

Put the same letters in the boxes below to find the 4 names.

9	2	7	7	3		13	2	12	3	11	10

5	3	13	8	4	8	13

9	2	7	7	3		3	7	8

1	2	14	14	2	12

## The Báb speaks to the Letters of the Living

There were now eighteen people who had recognised that the Báb was the Promised One they had been seeking. Many had found Him because He had appeared to them in their dreams, or in a vision while they were praying. Their souls were on fire with love for Him and for God Who had answered their prayers and aided them to find Him. They wanted to do everything they could for the Báb and were even prepared to give their lives for Him.

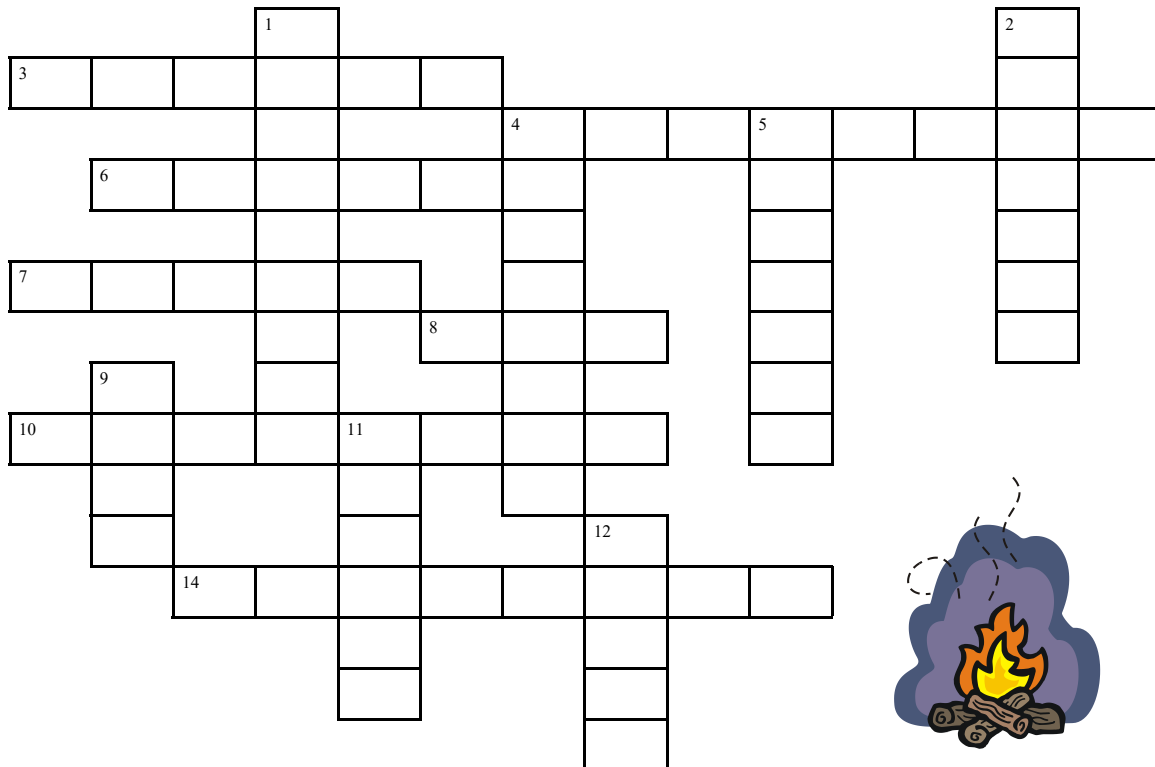
He said that each one of them was like "a fire . . . in the darkness of the night that has been kindled upon the mountain-top" and that they must be pure to let their "light shine before the eyes of men".

He asked each one to go to a different place to announce the news that the Promised One had come, and to prepare people's hearts for the coming, in the near future, of One even greater than Himself: "Scatter throughout the length and breadth of this land, and, with steadfast feet and sanctified hearts, prepare the way for His coming."

To Mullá Husayn He gave a special task. He was to go to Tihrán, the capital city, to find a mystery hidden in that city that would change the world into a paradise. The Báb did not say Who this mystery was, but we now know that this was Bahá'u'lláh, the Great One they were all preparing for.



Can you solve this crossword by reading about the Báb speaking to the Letters of the Living?



**Clues across:**

3. Some people had d \_\_\_\_\_ about the Báb in their sleep.
4. The Báb was the p \_\_\_\_\_ One they were all looking for.
6. Some people said a p \_\_\_\_\_ asking God to help them find the Báb.
7. Their s \_\_\_\_\_ were on fire with love for the Báb.
8. The promised One was the B \_\_\_\_.
10. There were e \_\_\_\_\_ Letters of the Living.
14. In Tihrán was a mystery that would turn the world into p \_\_\_\_\_.

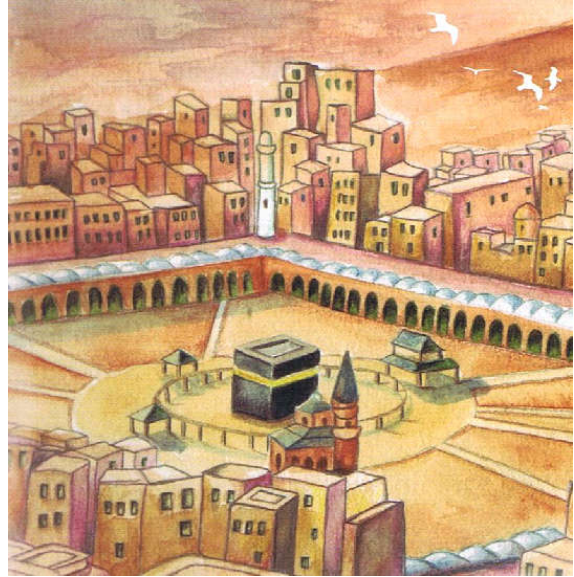
**Clues down:**

1. The greater One the Báb was preparing them for was B \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He said that Bahá'u'lláh was even g \_\_\_\_\_ than Himself.
4. The Báb pre \_\_\_\_\_ them for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh.
5. There was a my \_\_\_\_\_ hidden in Tihrán.
9. Each of the Letters of the Living was like a f \_\_\_\_\_ on the mountain-top.
11. Mulla Husayn was sent to find the mystery in T \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Each of the Letters of the Living was like a fire in the ni \_\_\_\_\_.

## Travels of the Báb

### Mecca

It was now time for the Báb to publicly tell people that He was the Promised One. He set off on the long journey over sea and desert from Shiráz to Mecca, which was in Saudi Arabia, a country next to Persia. This is where a holy event had taken place one thousand years ago, when Muhammad's soul had been taken on a journey to Paradise.



One thousand years ago Muhammad had said that the Promised One from God, Who was also called the Qá'im (The One Who Will Arise), would appear in the future, and every year thousands of Muslims go to Mecca to pray for Him to come. One day, as all the pilgrims were praying, the Báb announced, in a clear, loud voice so everyone could hear, that He was that Promised One they were waiting for.

News of what the Báb had said spread far and wide, and when the governor back in Shiráz heard, he became very angry because he did not want to believe it. When the Báb was on His way back to Shiráz the



governor sent soldiers to arrest Him, although they did not want to do it because they liked the Báb. Eventually, the governor banished the Báb from the town for ever and He was not even allowed to say goodbye to His wife and mother. But there were many people in the town who knew the Báb was the Promised One.



## **Isfahán**

The Báb arrived in Isfahán, where the governor was a kind man and asked the head Muslim priest to look after the Báb as a guest during His stay, and later invited Him to stay in his own house. Many people became followers of the Báb in that town, including the governor. But some of the priests were jealous of the Báb because people loved Him so much, and they plotted to kill Him. The King of Persia, however, had heard good things about the Báb and thought he would like to meet Him, so he invited Him to come to Tihrán.

## **Kulayn, near Tihrán**

The Báb was staying in a village near Tihrán, waiting for a message from the King telling Him when to come. But no invitation came. The King's prime minister was worried that the King would become a follower if he met the Báb, and he did not want that to happen. So he persuaded the King to write a letter to the Báb saying he had changed his mind. Instead, guards were ordered to take the Báb further and further away from His friends and family to Tabríz, in the far north of Persia.

## **Tabríz (first visit)**

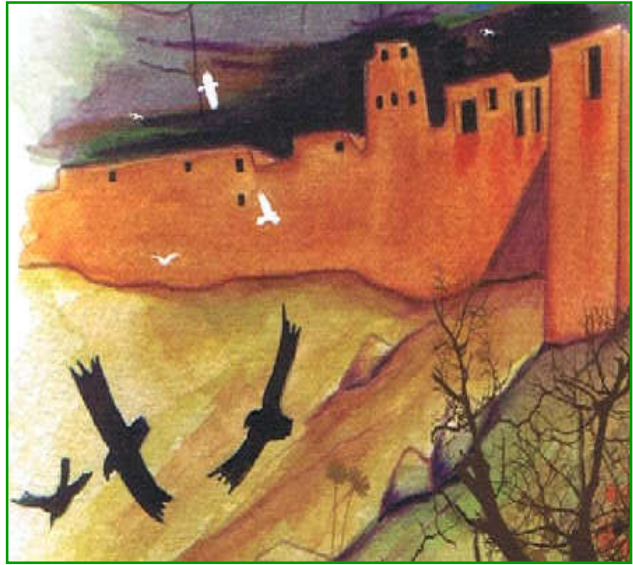
During the journey to Tabríz, the guards noticed how kind the Báb was to everyone He met. The government had given Him money to pay for His food on the journey, but He gave it all away to the poor. The guards were in tears when they had to hand Him over to the cruel governor of Tabríz.

As the Báb was led through the streets, hundreds of people lined the roads to see Him. Some even kissed the ground where He had passed by. The governor of Tabríz was not pleased. The Báb was supposed to be a prisoner and yet the people were welcoming Him as though He was the King of Kings!



## The Castle of Máh-Kú

The Báb was imprisoned in a dark, draughty castle built on a mountain. Below were the mud-bricked houses of Máh-Kú. It was so cold in winter that when the Báb washed His face, the water froze in icy drops on His beard. And there was no lamp to light His cell. But the Báb wrote some of His



most important books while in this prison, and the warden soon realized how holy He was. He allowed a few people to visit the Báb, although they weren't meant to. One of these visitors was Mullá Husayn, the first Letter of the Living.

In the spring, the Báb, Mullá Husayn and the prison warden celebrated Naw-Rúz together.

## The Castle of Chihríq

When the King's prime minister heard what was happening in Máh-Kúh he was very cross, and decided the Báb should be sent to a place even more remote and lonely, where nobody would know where He was and everyone would forget about Him. He sent Him to a castle-prison in Chihríq, where people did not like strangers.

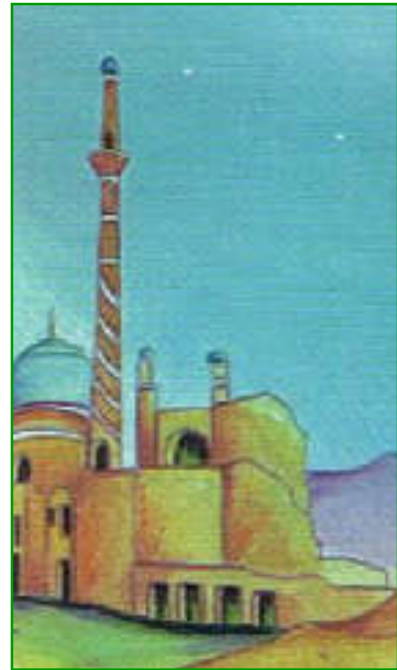
However, before long, the warden became a believer. And many people in that wild area also came to love the Báb. Every morning on their way to work they would look up towards the castle, bow their heads to the ground,



and call out the name of the Báb and ask for His blessing. There was even a rich nobleman who had a dream about the Báb and walked all the way from India to Persia to see Him.

## Tabríz (second visit)

When the government heard that thousands of people were believing in the Báb, ordinary people as well as a nobleman, religious leaders and writers, they became worried. They sent the Báb to the main town to be questioned by the most important religious leaders in Tabríz.



"Who do you claim to be?" asked the chief Mullá.

A spirit of power shone from the Báb as He said:

**"I am, I am, I am the Promised One!"**

Although it was true what the Báb said, most of the people present did not want to believe it. Although they prayed for the Promised One to come, they knew they would have to change their ways and be more just and kind and would not be so powerful any more.

When the prime minister in Tihrán heard what had happened, he wrote an order saying that the Báb should be killed. The governor of Tabríz protested, saying that the Báb was innocent and had not done anything wrong. But the prime minister refused to listen.





## The Martyrdom of the Báb

There was a young man called Anís who was with the Báb on the day of His martyrdom. The priests tried to persuade Anís to deny his faith, otherwise he would be killed too. When Anís refused, they said he was mad! Anís said that it wasn't him who was mad but the priests because they wanted to kill the Promised One!

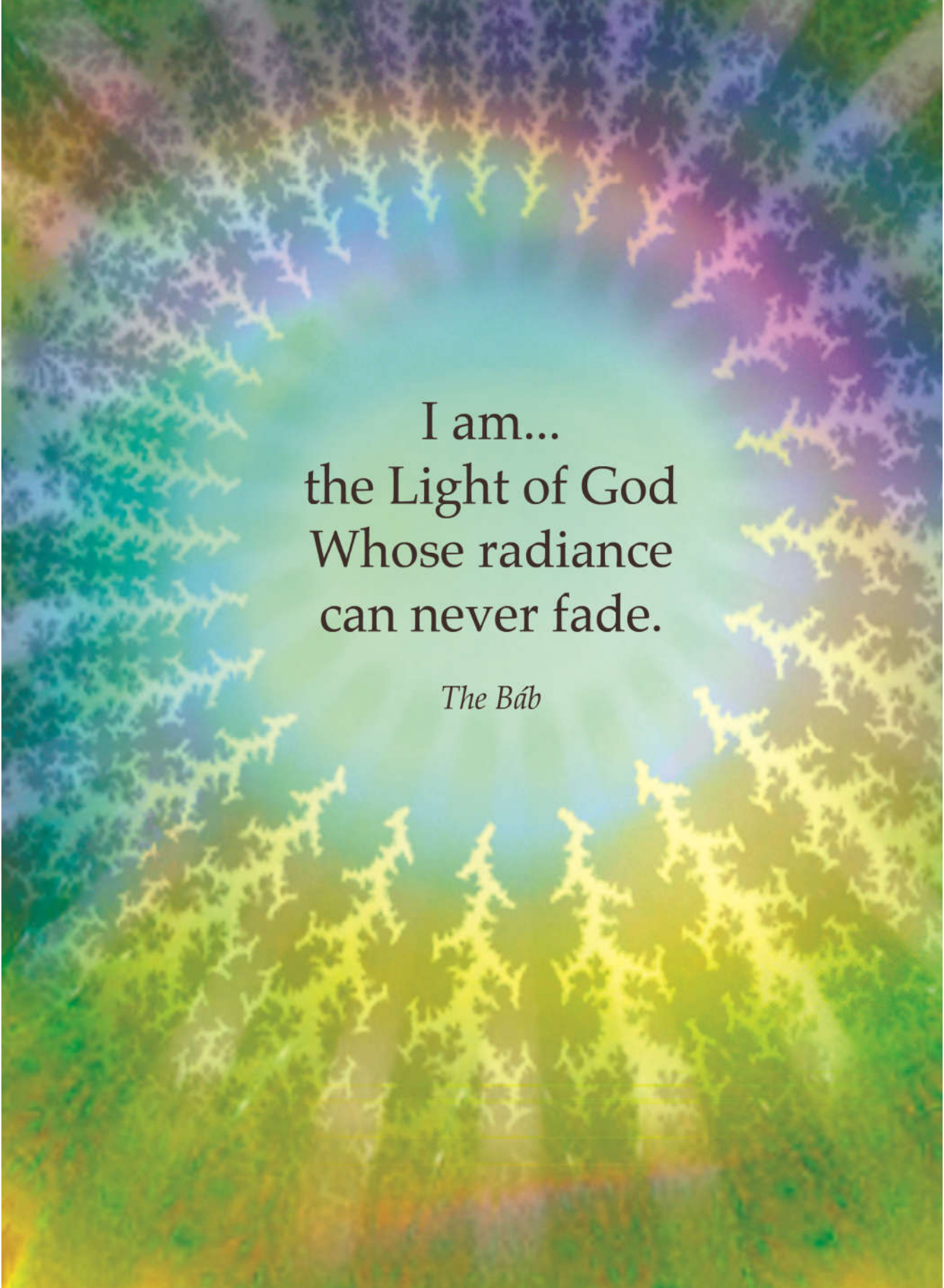
At midday on 9 July 1850, the Báb and Anís were taken to the army barracks in the town of Tabríz.

The Báb turned to the hundreds of people crowded in the roads and on the flat roofs of the houses surrounding the square. He looked at them with great love and sadness in His eyes.

**"Had you believed in Me," he said,  
"every one of you would have  
followed the example of this youth.  
The day will come when you will have recognized Me.  
That day I shall no longer be with you."**







I am...  
the Light of God  
Whose radiance  
can never fade.

*The Báb*

## What was the Báb like?

It would be wonderful if we could know what the Báb was like, and what it would have felt like to be near Him. We are lucky that some people who met Him have spoken or written about their experience.

Many people noticed:

**"His extreme devotion to God"**



Some were struck by

**"His humility"**



Many others were amazed by:

**"His acts of extreme kindness"**



Some people wrote about:

**"His super-human wisdom and knowledge"**



Others were overwhelmed by:

**"The tenderness of His love"**



Many, many people noticed:

**"His courtesy"**

Some commented on:

**"The serene expression of His face"**



Many people felt:

**"The power and majesty that radiated from His holy person"**





## Meeting The Báb

A young man was with his teacher, Siyyid Kázim, when he met the Báb for the first time and wrote this:

"The morning light had just broken when I found myself walking . . . through the streets of Karbilá. We soon reached a house, at the door of which stood a Youth, as if expectant to receive us. He wore a green turban, and His countenance revealed an expression of humility and kindness which I can never describe. He quietly approached us, extended His arms towards Siyyid Kázim, and lovingly embraced him. . . .

"We were soon led by Him to the upper floor of that house, and entered a chamber bedecked with flowers and redolent of the loveliest perfume. He bade us be seated. We knew not, however, what seats we actually occupied, so overpowering was the sense of delight that seized us. . . . I was mute with wonder!"

Words of Hasan-i-Zunúzí, 1841

## Names and Titles of the Báb

When the Báb was born, there was great excitement in the land. Not just in Persia, where He lived, but all over the world. The prophecies in the holy books of the Muslims, the Christians, the Zoroastrians, the Buddhists, the Hindus and the Jews all spoke of a time when God would send another Messenger to the world to bring about the Most Great Peace, and many people thought that time was near.

There was also another prophecy — that there would be two Promised Ones (the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh). Their coming was described as two trumpet blasts from heaven.

One of the titles of the Báb was **the Promised One** because He was the first of these two Holy Ones Whose coming had been promised by the Prophets of the past.

Another of His titles was **the Herald** because He had come to tell people about the coming of Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God, Who would come a few years after Him with teachings to bring the Most Great Peace and unite the religions and peoples of the world.

The Báb had other names and titles too, such as **the Qá'im**. This means "He who shall arise", and even the children in Persia knew how wonderful the Qá'im would be. If anyone even said that word, everyone would stand up out of respect, wherever they were.

And **the Mihdí**, which means "One Who is guided by God."

His followers called Him **the Lord of the Age!** and spread His teachings from one end of the country to the other.

And, of course, His name, **the Báb**, which means the Gate, and is the name we usually call Him by.

When Bahá'u'lláh came, He called the Báb **the Beauty of God**.

All these titles — the Promised One, the Gate, the Herald, the Qá'im — really mean the same thing: The return of the Holy Spirit of God in the person of the Báb.



*the Promised One*



*the Herald*



*the Qá'im*

**the Mihdí**

**the Báb**

*the Beauty of God*

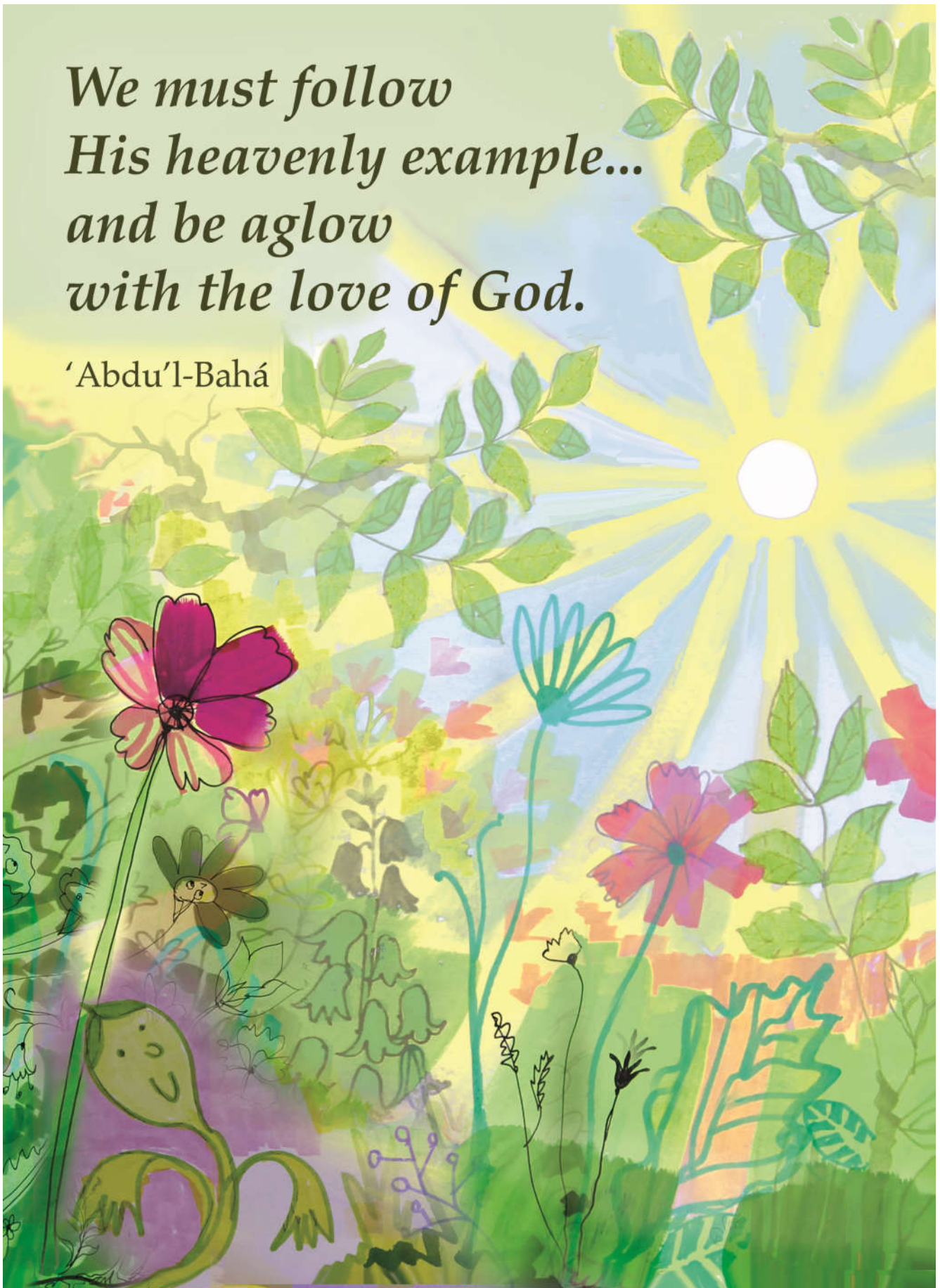


**the Lord of the Age**



*We must follow  
His heavenly example...  
and be aglow  
with the love of God.*

'Abdu'l-Bahá



## The Love of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb

In the past, a Manifestation of God came to the world about every 1000 years. But in this day, two Manifestations of God came at the same time—Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb. Such a thing has never happened before. It is a great gift from God to mankind. It tells us how important this time is, for it will need a mighty outpouring of love from God to achieve unity in the world.

Bahá'u'lláh was always praising the Báb. And the Báb was constantly telling people about the coming of Bahá'u'lláh and of His divine power and greatness. Speaking of Bahá'u'lláh, He said:

*“Were He to appear this very moment,  
I would be the first to adore Him,  
and the first to bow down before Him.”*

Although They never met, They shared the same difficulties in the path of God. They were both imprisoned several times and punished by people who did not understand that They had come with a wonderful new Message from God.

Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb were filled with the Holy Spirit of God and it was as if Their souls were one soul. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said:

*“This is a unity divine, heavenly,  
radiant, merciful. . . .”*



## The Heavenly Garden

In His Book of Names (The Kitáb-i-Asmá') the Báb described religion as being like a heavenly garden, or orchard, planted by God.



He said that the trees are like teachings brought by the Messengers of God, and that these teachings are delicious spiritual fruits, such as kindness, justice, love and peace. Each time a Messenger of God comes He invites everyone to enter this lovely Garden and enjoy its beauty and peace and happiness.

But whenever a new Messenger of God does come, only a few people believe in Him at first. The others, said the Báb in sorrow, rise up against the new Holy One and sometimes even kill Him, like they did with Jesus and would, in the end, do to Him.

The Báb told His followers to watch, for a supreme Manifestation of God would appear nineteen years after Him and bring teachings to unite the world. This Great One was Bahá'u'lláh.

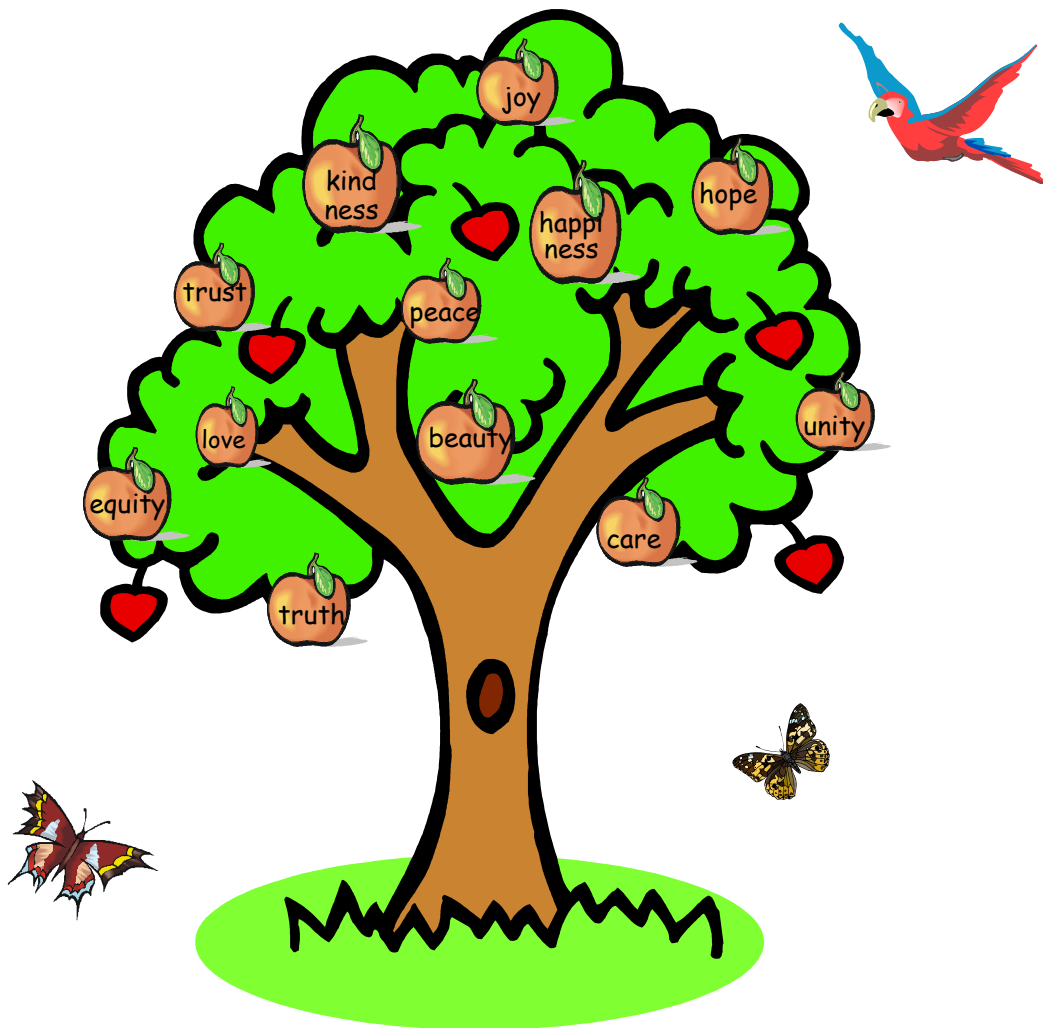
The Báb said the believers must be pure in all things so they would be worthy to be in the presence of this Great One and recognize Him, and enter the new heavenly Garden.

**"Guide, then, the people unto the  
garden of delight which God hath made  
the Throne of His Paradise."**

**(Bahá'u'lláh)**

## A Tree from the heavenly Garden

These are the kinds of fruits that the Báb said would grow in a heavenly garden. The letters below have got mixed up. Try to put the right words in the boxes.





1. rtuht	2. yitun	3. sutrt	4. ogy	5. utiqey	6. capee
t _____	u _____	t _____	j _____	e _____	p _____
7. snednisk	8. peho	9. tabyeu	10. sheapinps	11. evol	12. reac
s _____	h _____	b _____	h _____	l _____	c _____

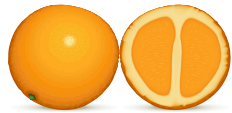





## Make a Prayer Corner for the Báb

You could make a very special place in your house for thinking about the Báb, and saying prayers.

<p>1. Find a quiet place—it could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a corner in your bedroom</li> <li>* the sitting room</li> <li>* in the hallway</li> <li>* even a space under the stairs.</li> </ul>	<p>2. Make sure it's tidy and clean.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
<p>3 Find something to put things on. It could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a table</li> <li>* a chest of drawers</li> <li>* a cupboard</li> <li>* or even a stool.</li> </ul>	<p>4. Spread a clean cloth over the table.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>

5. Find things that remind you of the Báb, such as:

<p>* An orange</p> <p>(Because there was an orange tree at the Báb's house.)</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>* A mirror</p> <p>(Because the Báb reflected the qualities of God.)</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>
<p>* Something green</p> <p>(The Báb wore a green turban and sash because He was descended from Muhammad.)</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>* A vase with some flowers</p> <p>(Roses would be lovely, because the Báb was born in <u>Shiráz</u>—the city of roses.)</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>



\* A lamp.  
(Because the Báb told us that He was "the Lamp which the Finger of God hath lit...")



\* A picture of the Shrine of the Báb.



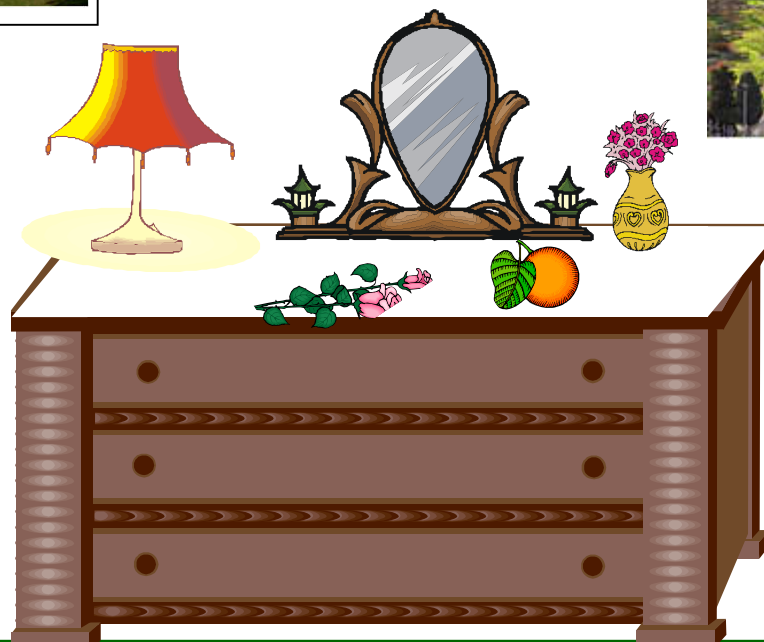
\* A prayer of the Báb, written out carefully and decorated.

Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!

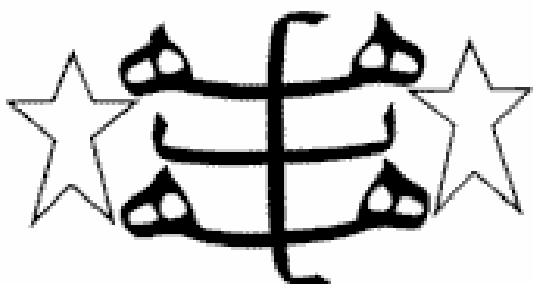
**Your prayer corner might look like this**



Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!

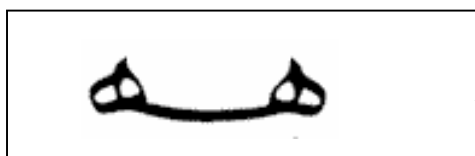


## The Ringstone Symbol

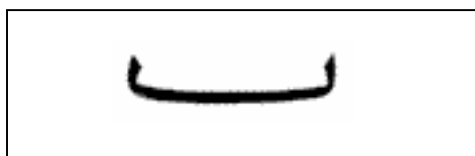


The Ringstone Symbol is used on Bahá'í rings and other jewellery. It was designed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and made into this beautiful pattern by a great calligrapher called Mishkin-Qalam. It represents God's purpose for man.

This is what each part stands for.



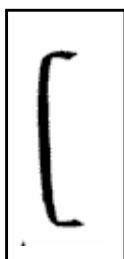
← The world of God, the Creator.



← The world of His Manifestations.



← The world of man.








← This line joins the other three together. This is like the way in which the Messengers of God form a link between the world of God and the world of man.

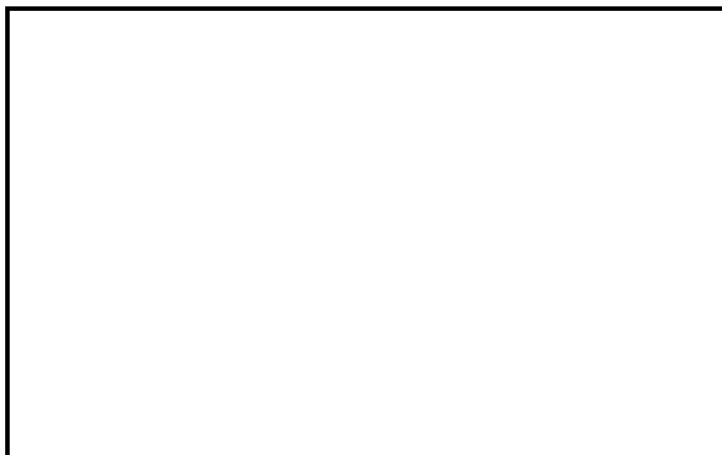


← The twin 5 pointed stars represent the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, the twin Messengers of God for this age.

Try drawing the Ringstone Symbol in the boxes below. Copy each part carefully.

Now add them together to draw the whole Ringstone Symbol.



## The Shrine of the Báb Three Crowns

'Abdu'l-Bahá built the first part of the Shrine of the Báb and His grandson, Shoghi Effendi, later built the rest. Shoghi Effendi said the Shrine looked like three beautiful crowns shining on Mount Carmel.



The Shrine looks like three crowns.



Symbol of the *Greatest Name* set in the front of the crown

The first crown is set on top of twenty four rose-coloured pillars. This crown is made of marble and decorated with lovely carvings of leaves and flowers. Round the top are marble panels where one day the Writings of the Báb will be engraved. And in the front of the crown, like a beautiful jewel, is the symbol of the *Greatest Name* of God.



Marble leaves and flowers.



Two of the spires  
tipped with gold

The second crown is above the first one.

It has a ring of eight dainty spires around it, each one like a small graceful minaret tipped with gold. When the sun shines they look like lighted candles.



Three of the eighteen windows

On top of this crown there is a circle of eighteen tall, elegant windows with patterns of different coloured flowers on them. They remind us of the first eighteen believers in the Báb, who were called the Letters of the Living.

Above these windows is the third and final crown - the magnificent golden dome on the top of the Shrine, shining out for all to see. Its brim is a wide band of marble with a circle of dainty leaves and flowers encircling it like a garland.

Shoghi Effendi said the Shrine looked like a Queen and the mountain was like her throne.



The golden dome



## The Pilgrim

Henry Husayn MacGregor stood at the foot of Mount Carmel. Nine terraces of steps, like nine terraces to heaven, stretched up above him to the beautiful Shrine of the Báb.

Henry slowly climbed the steep steps, expecting it to be hard work in the heat of the midday sun. But to his surprise he did not feel tired. The white marble steps seemed like wings lifting him up effortlessly, higher and higher up the mountain.

Although he was surrounded by other pilgrims, among them his parents, Henry felt as though he was the only person there, passing by the pools of clear blue water; past the flowers reaching to the sun; past the palm trees whispering in the wind, "Come up higher! Come up higher!" Henry could hardly breathe for excitement.

He paused and raised his head and gazed up to the shining crown of the dome of the Shrine of the Báb.

Beneath the dome was a circle of eighteen tall windows with patterns of lovely coloured flowers on them. The rays of the sun filled the windows with light and made Henry think of the first eighteen believers in the Báb, who were called "The Letters of the Living". Among these friends was the beautiful and brave Táhirih, the only woman among them. And Quddús, gentle and wise, his soul so pure it reflected the Light of the Báb. And the heroic figure of Mullá Husayn, who was the very first believer.

Henry had been named after Mullá Husayn. It was his middle name. And he wondered what it would have felt like to be alive at that time, two hundred years ago, and to have been the first person in the world to believe in the Báb. Now there were millions of believers all over the world because of those first few.

Henry thought about the life of the gentle Báb. How He loved to chant the prayers when He was a little boy. How He was a Messenger of

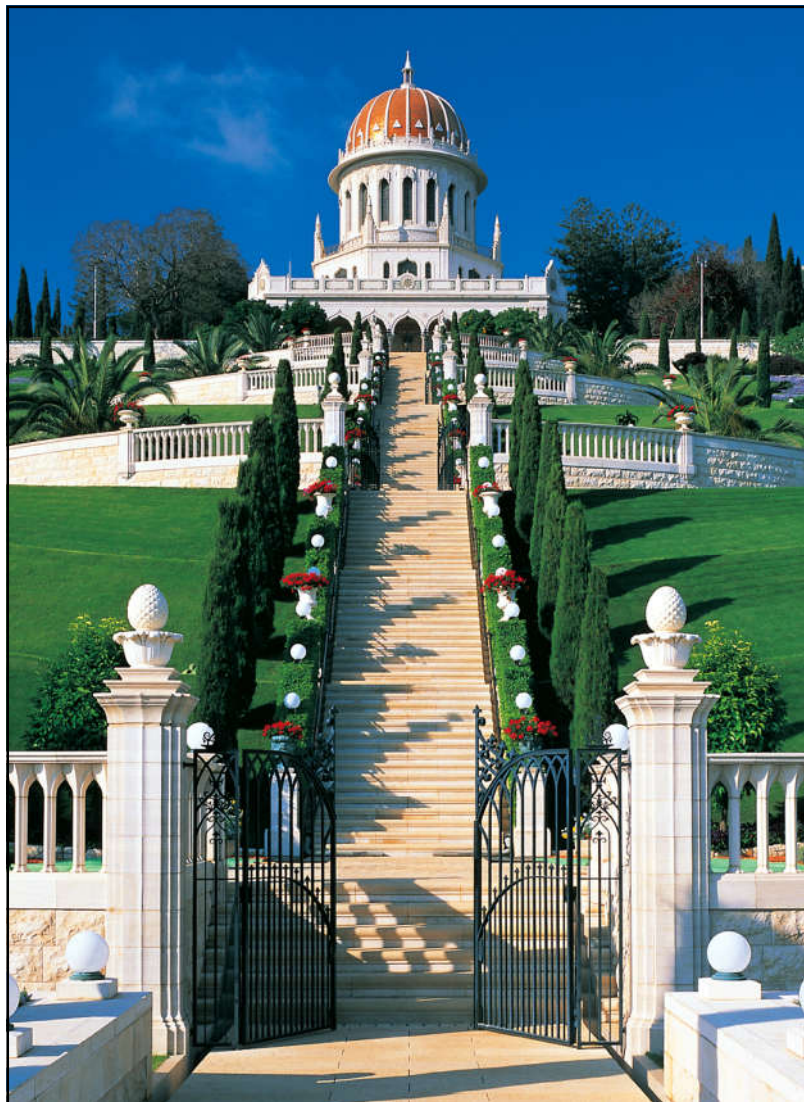
God and knew things without being told. How He had been killed by people who did not understand how holy He was. How God had sent Him to make the hearts of people pure, so they would recognize Bahá'u'lláh.

As he reached the Shrine, Henry could feel the great love of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh filling his heart and soul.

He stood quietly for a minute and said a prayer.

Then he took off his shoes and went into the Shrine.

*"O my Lord! O my Lord! . . . make me a cause of bounty to the human world, and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer. (Abdu'l-Bahá)*



# A QUIZ

1. Where was the Báb born? (p.5)
2. What name was the Báb given by His parents? (p.6)
3. What day of the week was a holiday? (p.10)
4. Who was the first to believe in the Báb? (p.19)
5. What special name was given to the first believers? (p.22)
6. How many Letters of the Living were there? (p.25)
7. Who, among the first believers, was a woman? (p.26-27)
8. Who was the last Letter of the Living to arrive? (p.28)
9. Where did the Báb ask Mullá Husayn to go? (p.30)
10. What was the great announcement the Báb made in Mecca? (p.32)
11. Name one of the castles where the Báb was imprisoned. (p.34)
12. Who was the young man who chose to die with the Báb? (p.36)
13. What colour was the Báb's turban? (p.39)
14. What does the name 'the Báb' mean in English? (p.40)
15. Can you give more Names or Titles of the Báb? (p.40-41)
16. Which 2 Manifestations of God lived at the same time? (p.43)
17. What do the twin stars on the Ringstone Symbol represent? (p.48)
18. Who designed the Ringstone Symbol? (p.48)
19. What is described as being like 3 beautiful crowns? (p.50)
20. How many tall windows are round the Shrine of the Báb? (p.51)
21. What mountain does the Shrine of the Báb stand upon?  
(p.52)
22. What did Henry take off before he entered the Shrine?  
(p.53)

## Answers

**P8 Picture Puzzle:** When He was a boy the Báb did not need a teacher. His knowledge was not from books. It was from God.

**P12 Crossword:**

Down: 1. HAFIZ 3. HOLIDAY 4. PICNICS 5. ORANGE 7. TREE

Across: 2. MOUNTAIN 6. SHIRAZ 8. PRAYING 9. FRIDAY  
10. JEALOUS

**P21 Code:** "O thou who art the first to believe in Me! Verily, I say, I am the Báb, the . . . Gate of God."

**P24 LETTERS OF THE LIVING**

**P25**  $1 + 2 + 2 + 5 + 4 + 2 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 18$

**P29 Boxes:** SQUARE, LAMP, NINETY, HAT, DOG  
**Letters of the living:** MULLA HUSAYN, TAHIRIH, MULLA ALI,  
QUDDUS

**P31 Crossword:**

Down: 1. BAHA'ULLAH 2. GREATER 5. MYSTERY 9. FIRE  
11. TIHRAN 12. NIGHT

Across: 3. DREAMS 4. PROMISED 6. PRAYER 7. SOULS 8. BAB  
10. EIGHTEEN 14. PARADISE

**P45 Fruits:** 1. truth 2. unity 3. trust 4. joy 5. equity 6. peace  
7. kindness 8. hope 9. beauty 10. happiness

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