

Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers

Stories adapted by Jacqueline Mehrabi and illustrated by Malcolm Lee

The story so far: Just before he died, Mulla Husayn's teacher, Siyyid Kazim, told his disciples to leave their homes and search for the Promised One. As soon as he heard these instructions, Mulla Husayn, with his nephew and brother, prayed and fasted for 40 days and then set off on their search for the promised Manifestation of God.

The Declaration of the Báb

Part Five

The three seekers, Mullá Husayn and his brother and nephew, walked along the dusty road beneath the scorching sun. Dry, brown land stretched for miles into the distance.



Late one afternoon, they saw Shíráz in the valley below them. They hurried along the road and came to the tall gates leading into the town. Mullá Husayn stopped. He wanted to be alone for a while, so he asked

his nephew and brother to go inside without him and wait in a certain mosque where he would join them later that evening.

It was then that Mullá Husayn saw Him! A Youth with a shining face was coming towards him. The Young Man embraced Mullá Husayn and greeted him with a smile of loving welcome. Mullá Husayn was surprised. The Youth seemed to know him. Perhaps, thought Mullá Husayn, He was one of the many disciples of Siyyid Kázim. In fact, the Young Man had spent a year in Karbila attending Siyyid Kázim's lectures, but Mullá Husayn could not remember meeting Him before.

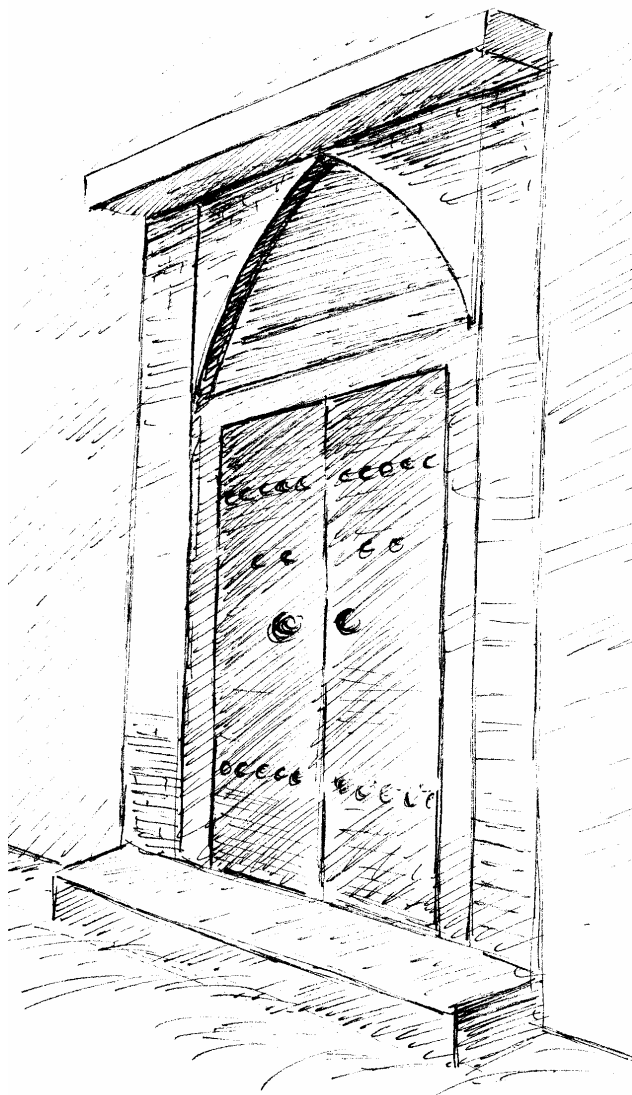
The Youth smiled again and invited an astonished Mullá Husayn to His house to rest after the long journey.

"Please forgive me," replied Mullá Husayn politely, "but my two companions are waiting for me."

"Leave them to the care of God," the Young Man gently replied. "He will surely protect and watch over them."

So Mullá Husayn followed the Young Man until he found himself at the gate of a small house inside the town.

"Enter therein in peace and safety," said the Young Man, and



beckoned to Mullá Husayn.

Mullá Husayn's excitement grew as he entered the house. He wondered if he was coming near to the end of his long search.

"Perhaps my visit to this house", he thought to himself, "will help me find the Promised One."

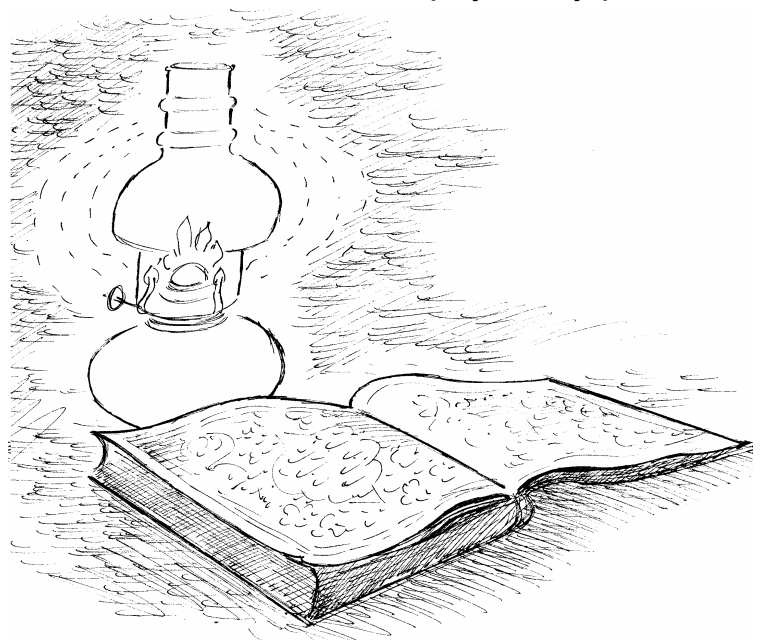
A jug of water and a bowl were brought so he could wash his hands and feet, which must have felt wonderful after walking all day in the sun. As a sign of respect, the Young Man helped by pouring the water. He then gave Mullá Husayn a refreshing drink, and afterwards made him tea from a samovar. Mullá Husayn felt very touched by His kindness. They both stood to say their evening prayers together.

When they had finished praying, the Young Man asked Mullá Husayn if Siyyid Kázim had given any clues on how to recognise the Promised One. Mullá Husayn said yes, that the Promised One would be of the same family as the Prophet Muhammad and would be between twenty and thirty years old. His knowledge would come from God and He would know everything without being taught. He would not be very tall or very short, but in between. He would not smoke and would be physically perfect.

There was a silence, then the Young Man said, "Behold, all these signs are manifest in Me!"

By this, He meant that He was the Promised One.

Even though the Young Man had told Mullá Husayn He was



the Promised One, Mullá Husayn was still not sure! But he had chosen two tests to make absolutely certain.

One test was to ask for an explanation of some parts of the writings of Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kázim. The second test was to ask for an explanation of a difficult chapter about Joseph in the Qur'an, the Holy Book of the Prophet Muhammad. Mullá Husayn had once asked Siyyid Kazim to answer the question about Joseph, but he had refused, saying, "This is beyond me. But that Great One who will come after me will, without being asked, explain it for you."

First of all, Mullá Husayn gave the writings of Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kázim to the Young Man, Who explained everything very clearly, in no time at all. Then, before Mulla Husayn even asked, He said that He would now explain the chapter in the Qur'án about Joseph!

Mullá Husayn now knew he had found the Promised One! He felt as though He was in heaven. Excitement and joy filled his heart and soul, and he stayed all night listening to the Young Man as He explained the meaning of the story of Joseph.

When it was time for him to leave the following morning, the Youth turned to him and said:

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

The Báb called Mullá Husayn the "Bábu'l-Báb", which means "the Gate of that Gate". And He said that seventeen more people must first find Him for themselves, without help from anyone else, and then they could all tell everyone the good news that the long-awaited Promised One had come.

The Báb called the first eighteen people who believed in Him "The Letters of the Living".

(To be continued)