

Year 1, Lesson 1 – Story

Birth of the Báb, 20th October, 1819

There were two holy men in Persia who were like stars to the other people. A star shines at night and lights up the sky and this is how Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kazim were they guided the people who did not understand. They told them that they must watch and not miss knowing the Promised One when He came, and explained many signs to make it easier for them. Some of the people listened, but most were too proud and turned away.

In the year 1819 a sad thing happened to Shaykh Ahmad: his son died and those who loved him came to say how sorry they were. But Shaykh Ahmad told his friends not to be sad. He said this because he knew that God had given the world the precious gift of a baby boy called the Báb, Who was the Promised One everyone had been waiting for.

The Báb was born in the town of Shiráz in Persia. Cool, green trees shade the wide streets and streams of clear water bubble through the town. The air is sweet with the scent of roses and all night long nightingales sing. Many poems have been written about Shiraz and the people who live there are happy and friendly.

The mother and father of the Báb came from the family of Muhammad and everyone liked and respected them because of the good lives they led. When the Báb was still a little boy His father died so His uncle looked after Him.

When He was about six or seven years old the Báb was sent to school and one day the teacher asked Him to read the words at the beginning of the Holy Book of Muhammad, which is called the Qur’án. The Báb said please could the teacher explain what the words meant first because He did not want to say them unless he understood their meaning. The teachers pretended that he did not know, so the Báb said He would explain them: and He did, so beautifully that the teacher was astonished. Not only did the Báb explain what the words meant but He did it better than any grownup could have done.

The teacher took the Báb back to His uncle and told him to take great care of Him for His knowledge came from God and was like the knowledge of the Promised One. At first His uncle did not understand and thought the Báb had been naughty at school by talking too much, but he soon realised how very special His nephew was.

Everyone who met the Báb marvelled at the wise things He said and loved Him because He was always very fair, kind and gentle.

Part of the wonderful Promise of God had come true with the Coming of the Báb, and the rest of that Promise came true with the Coming of Bahá’u’lláh. And that is another story.

“I am the Lamp which the Finger of God hath lit...”

The Báb