

## 9HD pp.20-21 — Martyrdom of the Báb

They asked, "Who do you claim to be?" The Báb answered: "I am, I am, I am the Promised One." Although they were waiting for the Promised One to come, for Muhammad had told them He would, they did not want to believe it and sent Him back to the prison in the mountains.

In Tabríz was another prisoner. He was a boy called Anís. He dearly loved the Báb and wished to be with Him, but his stepfather thought he had gone mad and locked him up in a room of the house. Anís wept bitterly and could not be calmed. He began to pray and the Báb came to him in a dream, smiling into his eyes and saying that He had chosen Anís to be with Him when He was martyred. To be martyred is a wonderful thing it means to be killed because you believe in God and in the next world you are more happy than you have ever been in your life. When he heard this Anís was filled with joy and peace and did not cry any more.

Before long an order came from the government saying that the Báb (and anyone who believed in Him) was to be killed. He was again taken from His prison and brought to Tabríz. As He was being led through the crowded streets a young, bare-footed boy rushed forward and fell at His feet. It was Anís. He too was taken prisoner and with three others was locked in a cell with the Báb.

That night the Báb was very happy. He knew that before long He would be in Heaven, which is so wonderful that we call it the Abhá Kingdom, which means the World of God, the Most Glorious. The Báb looked gently at the few believers who were with Him and said He wished He could be killed by a friend not an enemy. The friends loved the Báb and so of course did not want to kill Him, but one of them, Anís, loved Him so completely that he was willing to do anything the Báb wanted him to do, however hard it was, and so he said that he would do it. Now the Báb's question had been a test to see who was the most pure and brave. Anís had passed the test and the Báb chose him to be martyred with Him the next day, just as He had promised in the dream. When you love someone very much you want to be with him all the time and that is why Anís did not mind being killed if it meant he could be with the Báb. His stepfather had kept him away from the Báb in this world, but his reward was to be with Him forever in the next world.

Early next morning the Báb was talking to His secretary when the chief-attendant came to take Him to be shot. He refused to let the Báb finish His conversation, even though the Báb told him that nothing on earth could stop Him finishing What He wanted to say to His secretary.

The leader of the regiment of soldiers, Sam Khan, who had been ordered to shoot the Báb, was very worried. He respected the Báb and did not want to harm Him. He told the Báb how worried he was, and the Báb told Sam Khan that if he was sincere, then God would make something happen so that he would not have to kill Him.

Ten thousand people were waiting in the square. The Báb and the boy were tied to a nail in the wall. Seven hundred and fifty soldiers pointed their guns at them. Sam Khan shouted: "Fire!" Then, as the smoke from the guns cleared away everyone gasped in amazement. The Báb had vanished! And Anís was standing unharmed near the wall.

The guards rushed about looking for the Báb and found Him back in the cell finishing His conversation with His secretary! The Báb smiled and said: "I have finished My conversation." He then told them that they could now kill Him as they had been ordered to do.