

SIYYID KAZIM-I-RASHTI

Siyyid Kazim was heartbroken when Shaykh Ahmad died, but after reading God's wonderful Words in the Qur'án, he felt that he could carry on the work of his master.

Just as much as the people had loved Shaykh Ahmad, so they seemed to hate Siyyid Kazim. They did not like his teachings and at every opportunity they would say bad things about him. Siyyid Kazim decided that he needed a friend, and thought that there was one person in Isfahán, a priest, who might help him. He thought that if the people saw that he had the friendship of a priest they would leave him alone, so he often asked his disciples if one of them could deliver a message for him. Although he asked many times, not one of his disciples offered to take the message. Finally, one man did, but Siyyid Kazim did not feel that he was the right one, so he turned to Mulla Husayn and said, "Arise and perform this mission, for I declare you equal to this task. The Almighty will graciously assist you, and will crown your endeavours with success."

Siyyid Kazim felt that the time was very close when the Promised One would come and he was always trying to help his disciples so that they would recognise the right Person and become His followers. He would give them hints to help them in their search. Sometimes he would say that the Promised One would be young, that he would be of the family of Muhammad, that everything He knew God would teach Him and not another man. He would not be too tall, He would not smoke, and He would be a very holy person. Even so, some of Siyyid Kazim's disciples thought that Siyyid Kazim was the Promised One.

One day Siyyid Kazim asked Shaykh Hasan to come and visit a very important person who had just arrived. When they reached the house they found a Youth standing at the door. He wore a green turban (which shows that he was a descendant of Muhammad) and His face showed great kindness. They went inside to a room bedecked with flowers and smelling of a beautiful perfume. The Youth gave them a drink from a silver cup, saying, "A drink of a pure beverage shall their Lord give them", which was a quotation from the Qur'án. Shaykh Hasan could not describe the happiness of the visit, although he did not know Who the Youth was.

Three days after that the Youth came and sat with the disciples as Siyyid Kazim was speaking to them. When Siyyid Kazim saw Him he stopped speaking until one of the disciples begged him to go on. "What more shall I say?" replied the Siyyid, as he turned his face to the Youth "Lo, the Truth is more manifest than the ray of light that has fallen upon that lap". The disciples wanted to know why he would not say who the Youth was, and Siyyid Kazim answered that it was dangerous to do so, as some harm might come to Him.

As Siyyid Kazim grew older he often told his disciples to be careful in case they became so busy with worldly things that they forgot about the Promised One. He even said they should give up everything they possessed and wander far and near looking for Him.

Every year the Siyyid would make a visit to some holy shrines. In the last year of his life he went with several friends to pray at the shrines. During his prayers, an Arab came to him and embraced him. The Arab was a shepherd and he had had a dream. In his dream he had seen Muhammad, who had told him to listen and obey. He must go to the holy shrines and wait for a man called Siyyid Kazim. He must go to him and bring greetings from Muhammad and tell him to be happy because after three days he would be with Muhammad.

Siyyid Kazim was happy with the news that he was soon to die and leave this troublesome world. His disciples were unhappy but the Siyyid told them not to grieve because soon the Promised One would be with them. Everything happened just as the shepherd had dreamed, and Siyyid Kazim died at the age of sixty.