

One of the friends in Constantinople who was living in utmost poverty sought out a certain pilgrim who was departing for 'Akka' and begged him, upon attaining the presence of the Blessed Beauty, to convey the request for His blessings and assistance in resolving his financial difficulties. The pilgrim passed on the request to Bahá'u'lláh, and the Blessed Beauty responded: 'We shall pray'. And He added: 'He should engage himself in the cotton business.'

After a time, that same pilgrim - again *en route* to the Holy Land, noticed while passing through Constantinople that that very same Bahá'í who had been in such dire straits was then a thriving merchant. The pilgrim observed: 'Now that you have attained this stage of wealth, you should make regular contributions as Huqúqu'lláh.' The merchant offhandedly remarked: 'My god, for the time being, is gold.'

Saddened, the pilgrim continued his journey. Once in the Holy Land, the Blessed Beauty enquired from him about the merchant and was told what he had said. The Blessed Beauty replied: 'We gave him that "god", and we are able also to take it away.'

On his return trip, the pilgrim enquired about the merchant in Constantinople and was informed that his trade had evaporated, all his possessions were lost, and unyielding money-lenders were hounding him.

In this state, the merchant sent a letter to the Holy Presence begging pardon and forgiveness. In His reply, Bahá'u'lláh instructed him to 'proceed to Bákú' from Constantinople and to 'busy yourself in transcribing the Holy Tablets in the Hazíratu'l-Quds of that city.'

He obeyed Bahá'u'lláh, and ended his days in Bákú.