

Before his acceptance of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, Haji Mirza' Haydar-'Ali had a dream in which he heard a town-crier in the bazaar of Isfahán proclaim that the Prophet Muhammad was dwelling in a certain house, and would receive anyone who chose to go and see him. Wishing to have the honour of visiting the Prophet Muhammad, he went to the house, which was unlike any he had seen before, climbed the stairs and entered a central chamber surrounded by several rooms.

'There', he reported, 'I could see His Holiness walking about, while a few people were reverently standing in His presence. I approached Him, and involuntarily fell at His blessed feet. He lifted me up, and said: "Unless you can say, 'For God and wholly for the sake of God, I have come here and entered', and then can face all the dwellers of the earth who, with drawn swords intent on killing you, are asking 'Why have you entered?' you cannot truly claim to have no other purpose except service to God." With this, I awoke from my dream.'

With the passage of time this dream gradually faded from the memory of Mirza' Haydar-'Ali. Fourteen years later he entered the 'Land of Mystery' [Adrianople], where, once or twice a day, he had the bounty of attaining the presence of Bahá'u'lláh.

'In the evening of a day when I had not attained the Blessed Beauty's presence,' Mirza' Haydar-'Alf continued, 'but had been sitting with Áqá Mirza' Muhammad-Qulí for four or five hours in a coffeehouse near the house of Bahá'u'lláh, I was suddenly overcome by an irrepressible desire to go to Him, but I did not have the courage to ask. At that moment, the door opened and 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered. He told me that I was to accompany Him.

'Upon attaining the presence of the Ancient Beauty I observed that He was walking in a central chamber, with a few of the believers standing reverently around. No sooner had I entered than I prostrated myself at His feet. Lifting me up, He stated: "Unless you can say, 'For God and wholly for the sake of God, I have come here and entered', and then can face all the dwellers of the earth who, with drawn swords intent on killing you, are asking 'Why have you entered?'. .

'Immediately those words, that same edifice and that same Peerless Beauty heard and seen in a dream fourteen years before were depicted here before my very eyes, as though they were a picture on a wall. Little by little, I came back to my normal state and realized that I was standing in the presence of the Blessed Beauty.'