

Hello children! I hope you had a happy time over Christmas, and are now ready to learn lots of new things. So now we are going to pick up where we left the story of the life of Baha'u'llah. Do you remember, we had reached the stage where Baha'u'llah was departing from Baghdad on a magnificent red roan stallion. That horse (his name was Sa'udi) was just as proud as a horse could ever be, as he led the procession out of Baghdad. All told, there were over a hundred people making the journey, with about fifty mules, several horses, and a dozen soldiers. Some of the mules carried special covered seats called howdahs, which protected the occupant from the sun.

So the caravan (this means the procession of people and animals – not to be confused with a house on wheels!) set out on its journey of one thousand miles to Constantinople.

The Governor of Baghdad was a devoted admirer of Baha'u'llah, and had made sure that all the top people in all the towns and villages through which the caravan would pass, knew in advance that Someone Very Special was on His way. This meant that at every town and village where the caravan stopped, there was a very warm welcome. In fact, the time spent on this journey, which lasted about four months, was the happiest Baha'u'llah was to experience between 1844, and His passing in 1892.

Baha'u'llah loved the open air, the beautiful countryside, and the sound of the singing birds, and He was with His family and friends.

The caravan encamped one night at a small village, and the next morning, an Arab travelling with the caravan came to Baha'u'llah very upset, as his two mules had disappeared over night. Baha'u'llah sent an official to locate the animals but there was no trace of them. The Arab was convinced that the caravan would move on and he would never see his mules again. Baha'u'llah immediately changed plans, and arranged for the caravan to stay on land nearby. "And", He said, "we will stay, until this man's mules are returned". Well, there was no sign of the mules anywhere. Then the headman of the village came, offering a small sum of money, because the beasts could not be found. Baha'u'llah said "No – the man must have his mules".

The next day, the headman came back with a paper signed by two officials guaranteeing to pay the full price of the mules within a month.

What do you think Baha'u'llah said? "No – the man must have his mules!"

The headman went away, and suddenly the mules reappeared – as if by magic! There was great rejoicing – no one had heard of getting stolen goods back again. Gifts were given to various people who had helped to retrieve the mules, and everyone (well nearly everyone) was very happy that the mules were safely back with their owner; and they had learnt something rather new – something called Justice!

Be good (well –reasonably good at any rate)

Michael