The Holy Mariner [[1]](#footnote-1)

By Jenabi Fazl [[2]](#footnote-2)

1. “Holy Mariner”

 Bahá’u’lláh (The Pre-Existent Root) and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (The Greatest Branch, branched from the Root). Those two are ONE. “The Counsel of Peace is between them both” (Isaiah). This is the Sidr al-Muntahá[[3]](#footnote-3). When Bahá’u’lláh ascended, “He Placed His Mantle upon ‘Abdu’l Bahá.”

2. “Glorified be our Lord the Most High”

 “The Lord of the Throne and the Dust”. Even the Manifestations look to the Lord who Manifests through them; and teach us, “The Way, The Truth and the Life” to God.

3. “Glorified be my Lord, the All Glorious”.

 Again, the Manifestation of God, Glorifies God as His Lord. Just as Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l Bahá sometimes use the pronoun “I” and sometimes “We”.

4- “Ark of Eternity”

 The Cause of God. The Ark of the Covenant.

5. “Celestial Concourse”

 The same as the Supreme Concourse. Realms and realms of various planes of consciousness beyond the world. Relatively all severed Bahá’ís have some station, even here, in the Concourse.

6. “Ancient Sea”

 The Sea of the Infinite Spirit upon which the Ark of Truth (the Cause of God) in which every Manifestation has sailed.

7. “In His Name, the Most Glorious”

“Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá. No man can utter its meaning, but all can attain the inner knowledge.

8. “Angelic Spirits”

 All severed from God. Then test of this Divine Journey begins.

9. “Ocean of Glory”

 Give these spirits the blessed opportunity to attain, “Nearness”.

10. “The Dwellers therein”

 Are those who have turned to God. They, alone, can sincerely become the dwellers in the Ark; and through tests alone, become permanent, “Dwellers”.

11. “Retreats of Nearness”

 Illumination through obedience; the Crown of the conquest of self through trouble and ordeal.

12. “Everlasting Realm”

 When the inner sight is opened, “there is God, and nothing with him”. The Station of Death in God. This Tablet of the Holy Mariner is the Path of the Seven Valleys.

13. “Sacred Strand”

 Of the dawn of inner realizations.

14. “Crimson Sea”

 The sea of the Mystery of Sacrifice, upon which we learn how, through test and trial, to draw nearer to the Oneness with God.

15. “Bid them issue forth”

 Number 6 above explains this. “Seek martyrdom in my Path”. The responsibility is ours, to be faithful to the end, or be prevented by our own “deeds”.

16. “Eternal invisible Station”

 Through the seas of test, which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells **us**, become “Our stumbling blocks or steeping stones”. It is upon us, to pass each test, make our will the Will of God or to stumble and fall.

17. “Flame of His Beauty”.

 Understanding of the Glory of His Reality; the Station of At-One-Ness with God through His Manifestation, **The Tree of Life**.

18- “Deathless Tree”

 The Light never dies. The Personality passes, but the Tree of Life is that Glory and Love Eternal in each past Manifestation and today, evermore.

19. “Embodiments His Cause”

 These are souls who have cleansed, through tribulation, the mirrors of their hearts, by the burnish of the spirit, so that Rays of His Will, his command, His Nearness, may shine therein and to the world.

20. “Around which the Glory of loses”

 Today, Moses and His heavenly Hosts from the Supreme Concourse are serving the world; as is Christ and His Hosts, Buddha, Muḥammad, Zoroaster, etc.

21. “Everlasting Hosts”

 Who have attained the heights through having conquered the Satanic inner force, and serve and progress forevermore, and especially today.

22. “Bosom of Grandeur”

 Figuratively the utterance of Command from the Illumined Heart and Spirit of the Prophet Moses (as an example) and in this Day of God.

23. “Ark of the Cause remaineth motionless”

 It would remain without progress if God, knowing the hearts of its dwellers, did not open further advances. To declare and to do are different.

24. “Even though, to its dwellers, be declared all Divine attributes”

 The declaration to its dwellers is one step; to possess these divine attributes, the dwellers must give up their will to His.

25. “them that are within the Ark”

 Thus far attained; that they may further arise to the inner glories of the Word—the Ark of the Covenant.

26. “taught thee behind the Mystic Veil”

 Jesus said to his disciples “Unto you it is given to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom”. This was what God had taught Jesus. It is the same symbol exactly.

27. “tarry in the Sacred Snow-white Spot”

 The Realization in its purity of outlook, but not yet the Heights.

28. “Station”

 The Heights of Oneness, through utter severance. “The Heights of Humility and Supplication”. The Seven Valleys clarifies this.

29. “world below”

 Various realms of the purely material phases of life, as naught compared Spiritual Stations.

30. “may wing through space”

 Soar to those Heights. “Break the Cage” entirely of the ego.

31. “Favoured Birds”

 The Birds of Heaven. Bahá’u’lláh described them as the Sacred Souls who have broken that cage of earthly ego; the subtle self.

32. “Realm of Eternal Reunion”

 The Spiritual Heights; whether relatively here, or Beyond. Reunion of Spiritual condition is not a thing of place—for each soul is covered thus. “I came from God and to him I return, severed from all save Him”. This is inscribed on Bahá’í burial rings (not yet in use in America). It refers not to a place but to a condition.

33. “Mysteries hidden in the Seas of Light”

 The Sacred Mysteries—All reality upon this planet is a symbol of Divine Reality.

34. “They passed the grades of worldly limitations”

 Thus far had the dwellers in the Ark (believers in the Cause) progressed.

35. “Divine Unity”

 Then reached; they were upon its **threshold**.

36. “Centre of Heavenly Guidance”

 The Holy Spirit of God in the Manifestation; Bahá’u’lláh and His appointed **Centre**.

37. “that station which the Lord hath ordained to be above their Station:

 Their ego had not been entirely consumed; therefore another of its many appearances broke forth.

38. “Cast them out from Kingdom of His Presence’

 It raised the barriers of Spiritual separation.

39. “Voice of Grandeur”

 God declaring prophetically through His Manifestation the hour of test and judgement to come.

40. “Unseen Pavilion”

 The Presence of God Over-Shadowing.

41. “Height of Glory”

 The Manifestation; or Centre of His Covenant, whose Light he Reflects”.

42. “O Guardian Angels”

 The Supreme Concourse; or It surrounds and serves this world in this Day of God.

43. “Return them etc., below”

 Separation and consequently spiritual veiling.

44. “Wings of the Celestial Dove”

 Even the Manifestation of God cannot create the Universe. They are His Messengers and His Word through them creates new souls. He creates His messengers to become these empty reeds.

45. “Ship of Fancy”

 Their own ideas, instead of God’s ideal.

46. “minds of them that comprehend cannot grasp”

 They could, they had the ability to comprehend the workings of God, but in this material they fail (environment) they now cannot grasp it.

47. “Maid of heaven”

 Divine Hour; symbol of steadfastness or trustworthiness.

48. “Signed (emblem of the) to the Celestial Concourse” (the emblem of her quality)

 The symbol of Communication;(recognition) the Hour of Trustworthiness is the symbol of the Station of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

49. “The Call”

 This is the Call of the Centre of the Covenant. The Servant—none on earth can understand it.

50. “Fragrance of the love of the Exalted and Glorious Arabian Youth”

 Arabian—see other (Persian) translation.

51. “Which no ear through all eternity hath ever heard”

 The Cry of the Martyrdom of the Centre of the Covenant, His Broken Heart.

52. “Highest Heaven”

 Where God alone abides.

53. “One Maiden from her hand-maidens”

 Here the symbol of the Centre of the Covenant in the condition of the Manifestation.

54. “Descent into space”

 Appears in this Manifestation.

55. “from the Mansions of Eternity”

 From the Presence of God. The sacrificial Station of servitude to the human world. The Spirit of the Master.

56. “and turn them unto that which … in the innermost of their hearts”

 The Beloved is the Knower of hearts; find if they have heeded the Word of His Holiness Bahá’u’lláh.

57. “Shouldst thou inhale the Perfume of the Robe of the Youth”.

 Bahá’u’lláh.

58. “hidden within the Tabernacle of Light”

 The Temple of the Manifestation.

59. “cry within thyself … chambers of Paradise”

 Condition of progression, not places. The inner Call of the Centre of the Covenant. **The Servant** is heard only by the Supreme Concourse. Earthly ears cannot hear.

60. “Eternal Wealth”

 The Supreme Concourse. All beyond this earth is for us, placeless, but conditions instead (of heavenly consciousness).

61. “from everlasting chambers and tremble”

 Should the perfume of fidelity be inhaled, even the Supreme Concourse adores these attained Stations of severed souls.

62. “Heights of faithfulness”

 Severance from death and all, save God. (see The Seven Valleys)

63. “Robes the fragrance of the Beloved One”

 Robes of Spirit. (Robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, i.e. “Spiritual” sacrifices of self. (see Revelation of St. John) There are five human senses, Divine “senses” are endless.

64. “rose to her full height in the midmost of creation”

 The Station of Declaration and Authority in Him who bore the Robe of Bahá’u’lláh in “Trustworthiness”.

65. “Sought to inhale fragrance at a time … neither beginnings nor end”

 Nothing in the Spirit of God knows a beginning nor an ending. It is from Eternity to Eternity. This station in a Manifestation. (Celestial cycle of over 500,000 years)

66. “She found not”

 They had “sought” to go beyond their limitations and claimed what was not for them.

67. “this verily is but one of His wondrous Tales”

 The Manifestation of God knows many wisdoms; and utters but a few—even none when souls are not ready.

68. “cried, wailed and repaired to Her own Station”

 So did the Centre of the Covenant **broken-hearted**. For years His Teachings grew more reserved in depths—and He said He was “Patiently waiting” and that “His work was done”.

69. “Gave utterance to one Mystic Word”

 Who knows this but Bahá’u’lláh and the God of All.

70. “whispered privily by her honeyed tongue”

 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá told us that the Cup of Martyrdom is the Cup of honey.

71. “Call amidst the Celestial Concourse and the Immortal Maids of Heaven”

 Other Trustworthy(former) Messengers; a symbol.

72. “found not … Breezes of Faithfulness”

 The Breezes of Faithfulness are only found upon those “Heights of humility” and “**Death in God**”.

73. “Youth—lone and forlorn”

 (Revelation of Truth) Read the last Tablet of the Servant of God to the World ere He Ascended.

74. “Land of exile (this earth) in the hands of the ungodly”

 The persecutors; the seniors. The unfaithful and negligent believers.

75. “Such a cry the Supreme Concourse grieves for even my (Jenabi’s) persecutions. How much more for those of the Servant of God.

76. “fell upon the dust”

 Passed away; and the bodily temple returned to this earthly dust of neither world. The mineral kingdom.

77. “gave up the Spirit”

 Ascended.

78. “Him that summoned her unto the Realm of High”

 God summoning his Messenger—to return from the land of exile to the Original home. The work was done.

79. “Essence of Love—His Exalted Paradise”

 Essence of Love—The Likeness of God. Who can comprehend the Paradise to which a Manifestation of God attains.

80. “Maids of heaven ... Chambers upon whose … Highest Paradise”

 The past Trustworthy Manifestations or Messengers of God … No one has ever seen Their Reality but God.

81. “Body fallen upon the dust”

 The Temple deserted by its Centre”

82. “beheld her state”

 Broken of heart, because the “Dwellers” in the Ark have delayed their progress—through veils of egotism reappearing under test.

83. “Comprehended a Word”

 One Word was sufficient for their grief … for His Sacrifice and for our earthly lessons so little learned.

84. “tales told by the Youth”

 Of this earthly vale, sacrifice, persecution and our delayed attainment as a body of Servants in his Path.

85. “Bared their leads (Reverence)
“Rent their garments (Sorrow)

1. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma\_maxwell\_jones\_collection , prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Possibly Jináb-i-Fáḍil-i-Mázindarání, who was known as “Jenabi Fazel”. “The Holy Mariner” is in *Bahá’í Scriptures*, pp. 251–4. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Symbolically, the Lotus tree in the Seventh Heaven (Paradise). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)