Epistle of the Báb in Reply to Mírzá Muḥammad-‘Alí Qazvíní:[1] A Divine Remedy for Sorrow and the Attainment of Certitude

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Introduction and background:

This sacred Epistle, revealed by the Báb in response to the inquiries of Muḥammad ‘Alí Qazvíní, one of the Letters of the Living, stands as a luminous testament to the counsel and spiritual direction He imparted to His earliest followers. Although the precise date and place of its revelation remain unknown, the Epistle itself bears witness to the depth of the Báb’s instruction, emphasizing trust in God, steadfastness in righteous deeds, and the attainment of certitude through detachment from all else.

In this communication, the Báb exhorts His devoted disciple to stand firmly upon the Beauteous Path of God, to recognize the divine wisdom underlying all creation, and to acknowledge that every affliction has been accompanied by a remedy ordained by God. He urges him to exert his utmost in virtuous action, to enter the Gate and immerse himself in the fathomless Ocean of Divine Oneness, and to cast away fear and grief, relying wholly upon God. The Epistle combines reassurance, exhortation, and spiritual illumination, guiding the reader toward certitude, contentment, and reliance upon the all-encompassing grace of God.

Although the particular inquiry that elicited this reply remains unknown, the tenor of the Báb’s counsel suggests concerns related to the attainment of spiritual certainty, the manner of drawing near to God, and the inner posture required in facing affliction—universal themes for any soul seeking to tread the path of devotion with integrity and steadfastness.

This Epistle exemplifies the Báb’s unique ability to intertwine intimate guidance with profound theological insight, offering a paradigm of steadfast faith, unwavering reliance upon God, and serene submission to His divine will.

The present paper offers a provisional English rendering of this Epistle, revealed in Arabic, based on the manuscript preserved in the Iran National Bahá’í Archives (INBA), Vol. 67, pp. 177–178.

[1] Mírzá Muḥammad ‘Alí Qazvíní (d. 1849) was one of the eighteen Letters of the Living. He was the son of Mullá ‘Abdu’l-Vahháb, a mujtahid (preeminent religious scholar) of Qazvin; cousin and brother-in-law of Táhirih, closely associated with her in Karbala; entrusted by her with a sealed letter and a verbal message to be delivered to the Promised One whom they both sought; present at Badasht; killed at Shaykh Tabarsí (Source: “Mírzá Muḥammad ‘Alí Qazvíní” Bahá’í Encyclopedia Project, bahai-encyclopedia-project.org).

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Thus, Doth the Báb Reveal:

"In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Know, O noble brother, and stand firm upon the Beauteous Path of God; and know that God, glorified be He, hath created naught except that He hath set forth its wisdom in the Divine Book.

And God hath ordained no affliction save that He hath provided a remedy;[3] *seek, then, forgiveness of thy Lord—there is no God but Him, He, the One unto Whom no likeness is comparable.*

Exert thyself with all thy being in thy deeds, for God hath not decreed the attainment of certitude save after thou hast wholly turned from all else. Enter His Gate, and plunge into the fathomless Ocean of His Oneness; for God has purified whosoever enters it from the insinuations of Satan.

Fear nothing, and grieve over nothing, for God has forbidden His fear to those who fear none but Him. And He purifies the faithful in His Word from the sorrows of others,[4] *as He, the Truth, has said: 'Praise be to God, Who has removed from us (all) sorrow.'*[5]

Stand firm in the Cause with sincerity, for God hath ordained for every thing a fixed station. Be content with God, for He, the Truth, hath spoken: 'If all things are by My decree and destiny, wherefore sorrow?'

Put thy trust in God in every condition, and turn unto Him with thy whole being, even to the effacement of all else save Him.

Know with certitude that thou art forgiven upon entering that Gate, and await the command of God, for the victory of God is near.[6] *And all praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds."*

[3] By affirming that *"God hath ordained no affliction save that He hath provided a remedy,"* the Báb discloses a foundational principle of divine providence: every trial is bound to a hidden cure, appointed within the same decree that permits the affliction. The believer is thus summoned to patience and trust, confident that sorrow is never without purpose, nor suffering without a God-given means of healing.

[4] The phrase *"He purifies the faithful in His Word from the sorrows of others"* refers not to the removal of compassion, but to the transformation of grief born of witnessing human affliction. The Báb affirms that the heart of the believer, though touched by the sufferings of humankind, is cleansed from despair through the power of divine Revelation. The Word of God does not numb empathy; rather, it refines it into patience, trust, and purposeful action, so that sorrow becomes a means of spiritual awakening and service, not a burden of anguish.

[5] Qur'an 35:34.

[6] Alludes to several Qur'ānic passages proclaiming the nearness of divine victory (e.g., 2:214; 12:110).

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

فاعلم يا اخ الجليل و اثبت
قدميك على صراط الله الجميل و اعرف ان الله سبحانه ما خلق شيئا الا
و قد بين حكمه فى الكتاب و ما قدر الله داء الاوقد خلق له دواء فاستغفر
ربك الذى لا اله الا هو الذى ليس كمثله شيء و اجهد على العمل
لان الله ما حكم للبلاغ الى القطع الا بعد الياس عن كلشيء و ادخل بابه فى
لجة الاحدية فان الله قد طهر واردها من اشارات الشيطانية و لا
تخف لشيء و لا تحزن عن شيء فان الله قد حرم خوفه لمن فيه خوف من غيره
و ازكى المؤمنين فى كلامه من حزن الغير كقوله الحق الحمد لله الذى اذهب
عنا الحزن واستقر على الامر بالاخلاص فان الله قد جعل لكل شيء
مقاما موقوفا و ارض عن الله بقوله الحق ان كان كل شيء بقضائى
و قدرى فالحزن لما ذا واتكل على الله فى كل الاحوال و اقبل بكلك
على الله حتى المحو عما سواه و ايقن بالغفران بعد ورودك ذلك الباب
وانتظر امر الله فان نصر الله كان قريبا و الحمد لله رب العالمين