A Tablet of the Báb on Progressive Revelation

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Introduction and background:

This brief Tablet of the Báb exemplifies His care for the spiritual and moral guidance of His followers, affirming that ultimate victory is the prerogative of the God-fearing. It bears witness to the continuity of divine revelation, invoking the memory of Abraham, Moses, and the one upon whom the Essence was sent down, and attests to the immutable truth of God's decrees. The Tablet further instructs that justice must be rightly directed, that patience be exercised in adversity, and that the faithful remain steadfast amidst outward opposition. Moreover, it reveals the Báb's concern for the transmission of His message, commanding the dispatch of the Book to the sovereign of the earth and urging the followers to maintain reverence, fortitude, and unceasing praise of God.

Presented below is a provisional English rendering of this luminous Tablet, revealed in Arabic by the Báb. The manuscript upon which this rendering is based may be consulted at: Page 1, and Page 2.

The date and place of the Tablet's revelation, as well as the identity of its addressee, are unknown.

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The Báb Reveals:

"In the Name of the Most Exalted, the Most Great

Praise be unto God, Who bestoweth His grace upon whomsoever He willeth by His command. Say: verily, the ultimate victory belongeth unto the God-fearing.

We have, indeed, perused the Book thou didst send down by the leave of God, and discerned therein the mention of the name of Abraham—then of him upon whom the Essence² was sent down. Say: God, verily, rewardeth the doers of good.

That which was revealed in the Qur'an concerning Moses is indeed the truth, and in like manner doth thy Lord impart knowledge unto His servants—those who are truly assured.

Say: they who seek to smite thee for having invoked the Name of God—verily, smite those who come between the people and the path of the All-Merciful. And be thou patient, for unto every appointed term hath a decree been inscribed.³

Dispatch some copies [of the Book] unto the King of the earth, and say unto those who have followed Me: Fear God, and be steadfast, and say: Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds."

² نزل الدهن (nuzul al-duhn) — rendered here as "upon whom the Essence was sent down." Literally "the anointed," it denotes one upon whom divine authority or inspiration descends. Some render it "the one upon whom the Spirit descended" for clarity, but "Essence" preserves the Báb's elevated metaphysical nuance in the style of Shoghi Effendi.

³ In this passage, God addresses the Báb, the pronoun "thee" referring to Him. Those who would seek to harm the Báb for invoking the Name of God are not to be struck; rather, attention is to be directed toward those who obstruct the path of divine guidance. The Báb exhorts patience, reminding the faithful that all events unfold by God's preordained decree. This instruction exemplifies a central Bábí principle: justice must be exercised with discernment, and the faithful must act with wisdom and steadfastness, leaving ultimate judgment to God.

Selected Tablet From the Writings of the Báb, Typed Version

بسم العلى العظيم

الحمد لله الذي يمن على من يشاء با مره قل ان العاقبة للمتقين ولقد قرئنا كتاب الذى نزلته باذن الله و علمنا بذكر اسم ابر اهيم ثم بمن نزل الدهن قل ان الله يجزى المحسنين و ان ما قال فى ذكر موسى فى القران لحق و ان بمثل ذلك فيعلم الله ربك عباده الموقنين قل الذين يريدون ان يضربوك لحكم ذكر اسم الله ان اضربوا من حال بين الناس و اصبروا فان لكل اجل مكتوب، ان ارسل بعض النسخ الى ملك الارض و قل للذين اتبعونى ان اتقؤ الله و اصبروا و قولواان الحمد لله رب العالمين