## sweet and enchanting stories

# Sweet and Enchanting <br> Stories 

compiled and edited by
A₹ǐRobani

'Abdu'l-Bahá

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Cover design by: Epiphany Graphics (www.epiphanygraphics.ca) About the cover: The intersecting lines of the star are representative of the intermingling and convergence of the nations. All Bahá'í temples have nine entrances, welcoming all humanity from every direction. It is representative of the oneness of religion, the religion God. Each point of the star contains a simplistic icon or symbol of a story within the book.

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## Introduction

One of the Iranian traditions has been storytelling and recitation. In teahouses, professional storytellers have long practiced this tradition. Gradually, the practice was picked up by families who would pass the time telling stories around the family Kursi*, with a grandmother or grandfather assuming the role of storyteller.

When Bahá'u'lláh was in Baghdád, He would often visit teahouses at the riverside, where storytelling took place, in order to promulgate the Cause of God.

In my childhood, my grandmother would come from Sháhrúd to Tihrán to visit us once or twice a year. Whenever she came, storytelling around the Kursí was a favorite pastime and she would mesmerize us with fairy tales and stories about the beautiful princess, and stories from the Book of Kings and One Thousand and One Nights. During her stay, the stories would be repeated several times as she would tell them so enchantingly that we would insist upon it even though it was repetitious.

Storytelling has a respected position in Iranian culture; often kings would have court storytellers to keep them entertained in the evenings. Sháh 'Abbás, the Safavid, would sit in an upper chamber in the Chihil Sutún Palace among his courtiers listening to storytellers' recitations in a special room down below, equipped with special sound-conveying pipes, carrying the sound to his chamber. Most stories would be epic poetry, often conveying moral messages.

[^0]When my sisters, brother and I were older and married and had children, my children would often ask me to tell them stories on long winter evenings. Being weary after the day's work and concerned that the children attend to their school work I would not usually agree to their request, but on holidays and weekend evenings I would consent and entertain them. Whenever I found Bahá'í story books I would utilize them for this purpose.

Time passed; the children grew up and got married and had their own children, blessing me with twelve grandchildren. In 1969 we immigrated to Canada. Now it was the grandchildren who would ask me to tell them stories. As they did not know Persian well, I would often have to use very simple language in telling them stories. Mostly these were Bahá'í stories. Once, a Victoria area Local Spiritual Assembly organizing a gathering asked me to tell a few stories. My presentation was warmly received. Similarly, at a gathering in the presence of Amat'ul-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, I was honored to tell a short Bahá'í story, which received her warm encouragement.

On a trip to the South of France I met a dear old friend, Mr. Amír Farhang Ímání, and shared with him my wish to put together a collection of stories. He encouraged me and gave me a copy of an eight hundred page memoir of Dr. Ziá Baghdádí in Arabic, containing many stories. Dr. Baghdádí had spent some ten years in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence recording his memoirs daily. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was wont to relate wonderful stories during His conversations and discourses, lifting the spirits of His audience. Dr. Baghdádí recorded these stories. I was much obliged to Mr. Ímání to receive a copy of such a wonderful book.

When I returned to Canada, I asked a few friends to get together once a week, reading and translating stories from these memoirs. When the translation into Persian was nearing completion, it occurred to me to have them translated into English as well, which was accomplished
with Ehsan Erfanifar's assistance. My thanks to him and to Mr. Akbar Fana'ian and Mrs. Naghmeh Rahmánían who assisted with the Arabic-Persian translation, and to Mr. Enayat Bahrami for copy transcription of the stories. It should be noted here that some of the stories have previously appeared in other books but such stories are still enjoyable even repeated. I hope the reader will view this book with forgiving eyes; I am not a writer and my profession entailed working with construction material.

Aziz Rohani
Victoria, Canada


A fountain in Ridván Garden

Section A

Bahá" Stories Told by the Friends

Remembering Hand of the Cause of God, Abu'l-Qásim Faǐí
One day the beloved Hand of the Cause Mr. Faízí went to visit his ailing friend in Namází Hospital in Shíráz. The sick friend was asleep and Mr. Faízí was reluctant to call and wake him up, so he wrote the following poem and placed it on the sick friend's pillow: (poet unknown)

Though my share be mere thistle of the rose-garden I will cherish it as mine eyes, since my beloved giveth me it.
'Tis not but one gardener who tendeth the rose and the thistle He giveth this to one and that to the other.
If he poureth sweet wine in one cup and bitter in another,
Both come from the self-same wine-maiden.
Unity or separation, bitter or sweet, sting or honey
Whatever be our share, the same is ordained by Him.
Suffering or ease, light or darkness, good or evil
Whatever be one's lot, 'tis given by His decree.
Good or evil is merely a reflection of man's imperfect perception,
For naught but bounty and blessing come from Him.
Embrace thou whatever cometh to pass, pain or healing, For sooner or later 'tis not but goodness and ease.
Whether thou walkest uphill or down
In a blinking of an eye, the way is fared.

Story of the Purchase of a House of Worship Property
During a pilgrimage to the Holy land, Mr. Zabíh related the following:

During her stay in Haifa, Amelia Collins was often honoured to be in the presence of the Beloved Guardian and was profoundly enamored of Shoghi Effendi, always desiring to render some service. She stayed in a room beneath the beloved Guardian's bedroom. One night she noticed that the light in the Guardian's room was still on even though it was late into the night. Past midnight, when she awoke, she noticed the light still on. At five o'clock, again she found the light on and guessed that the Guardian had stayed up all night without any sleep. She was puzzled as to what might be troubling him, that he would not have slept even for an hour.

Early in the morning she knocked at the Guardian's door requesting permission to enter, which was granted. Amelia entered and stated bluntly, "Beloved Guardian, you didn't sleep at all last night. What is happening; what is wrong?" The Guardian replied, "I was busy and I was praying." Amelia insisted and said again, "I think something new has come up, please share it with me so that it might lighten the load of what is troubling you." After much persistence the Guardian said, "There is a piece of property, blessed by the foot-steps of Bahá'u'lláh, belonging to the Israeli Government, which has put it on the market for sale. The Christian community is quite interested to purchase it but the government has told them that they own a lot of properties on which they have not done any improvements, but Bahá'ís improve any property they acquire; so this property would first be offered
to the Bahá'ís and only if the Bahá'ís do not buy it, it would be sold to the Christians. The Government has offered it to me for sale and I would like to acquire it for a house of worship but I do not have the funds and do not wish to write Iranian friends again to send money. The time is short. I am concerned as the deadline is next Thursday and if I can't buy it the opportunity is lost." Amelia asked to leave.

Immediately she went to the telegraph office and sent an urgent wire to Argentina and asked her agent to sell her mining shares immediately at whatever price and send fifty thousand dollars to Israel before Thursday. The agents sold the shares at half price, and notified Amelia and sent the funds in time. Amelia went to the beloved Guardian on Wednesday with the funds. The Guardian was exceedingly happy to be able to purchase the land blessed by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh. Only three people knew about this: The beloved Guardian, Rúhíyyih Khánum and Amelia.

Some time later, the Guardian ordered a marble obelisk to be erected in the center of the property. The obelisk arrived in Haifa, sadly after the passing of the Guardian. The obelisk was stored near the property, at the instruction of the Hands of the Cause. After the establishment of the Universal House of Justice, it was decided to carry the obelisk to the property in order to install it in accordance with the Guardian's wishes.

Necessary preparations were made and one night the obelisk was loaded by crane on a truck headed for the site. The route that led to the House of Worship site passed through a narrow street, which was somewhat blocked that night by two parked cars. As this was the only access route the cars were lifted and moved by hand, making way for the trucks and crane to pass. Once there, the obelisk was hoisted up but the crane holding it suddenly snapped, dropping the obelisk, breaking it into two pieces.

Everyone was stunned and motionless and quite concerned. A Hand of the Cause suggested that they get
closer and examine what had happened. Closer examination revealed that the obelisk had a very clean break as if cut by a knife and each piece fell to one side. Looking closer they noticed an inscription: "Amelia Collins" just at the break point. They realized that the obelisk had been originally made from two pieces joined together with the inscription hidden inside the joint. No one there at the time could offer an explanation and everyone was happy that it wasn't broken, and that it could be joined again and secured.

The next day when they visited Rúhíyyih Khánum they related the event, requesting clarification about the inscription. She shared the story of the purchase of the property and the Guardian's decision to install the obelisk in recognition of Amelia Collins' sincere and loving services.

Mr. Zabíh


Mr. Zabîh

## Old Man and the King

One day ‘Abdu'l-Bahá went to 'Akká and visited the friends. Festive refreshments on the table indicated a birthday celebration for one of the believers-an American lady. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was asked to guess her age. He guessed an age younger than what she was. She was pleased and said to the Master that she was older than that. He replied that he gave a younger age wishing her to live longer and to serve the Faith more years. She stated that she had been a Bahá'í for nine years and ever since she had been feeling younger every year. 'Abdu’l-Bahá responded that she was correct and in reality she was only nine years old. Then He related the following story:

One day, a king was walking in the palace gardens in the company of the courtiers. He saw an old man planting a date palm tree. He asked the old man how long it would take for the tree to bear fruit. The gardener replied that it would take at least twenty years. The king said: "But you will not be alive at that time to partake of its fruit." The old man replied, "These date palms in your garden were not planted by me; others have planted them and now we enjoy the fruit. Now I plant and others will eat its fruit." The king was pleased with this reply and awarded him a bag of gold coins. The old man knelt and thanked the king and said; "Not only did I have the bounty of planting the tree but I am also partaking of its fruit so soon, and especially from the king's hand." The king was more pleased with the response and gave him yet another award. The gardener again knelt politely and said; "O, Your Majesty most trees bear fruit but once a year. Yet, the tree I have just planted has borne fruit twice. Not
only did I not have to wait for twenty years but enjoyed its fruit twice." The king was more pleased and asked him how old he was. The old man replied; "Twelve years." The king looked at him surprised and said; "How could this be; you are much older than twelve."

The old gardener bowed and said; "Before you there was an unjust king in our land and during his reign everyone was sad and miserable. There was always war and wretchedness. I do not count those years as part of my life and take into account only the years I have lived under your rule, because these have been years of peace and prosperity." The king was once more pleased with man's reply and gave him a further bag of gold coins, and then said to his courtiers; "We should tarry here no longer; the gardener speaks so sweetly that if I stay any longer I would have to bestow upon him the whole treasury and all my possessions."

Rock Sugar Cone

Mr. Kámrán Sahíhí related to me that Khalíl Ardikání in his memoirs states that he served 'Abdu'l-Bahá for some years and was a devoted lover of the Master. One day a pilgrim brought a rock sugar cone (in those days it was popular to press sugar into a large cone-shaped piece which would then be broken into lumps for consumption) for ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá instructed Khalíl to take the cone and break it down and distribute it amongst the servants. Khalíl followed the instructions, wrapped portions in paper, distributed them and returned, reporting to 'Abdu'l-Bahá that he had given everyone a share. 'Abdu’l-Bahá asked Khalíl, "Then where is my share?" Khalíl was very embarrassed as he had not thought 'Abdu’l-Bahá wanted any.

While 'Abdu’l-Bahá was in his room, Khalíl took a piece of wrapping paper and took a piece from everyone, made a portion for 'Abdu'l-Bahá and offered it to the Master. 'Abdu’l-Bahá took a piece, gave it to Khalíl and asked him to break it into four pieces. Khalíl looked bewildered. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "Khalíl, there is a mouse in this room. I want these pieces for the mouse. This one is its share. Haven't you seen it? It is a pretty white mouse."

Khalíl obediently divided the sugar into four and brought them back. 'Abdu'l-Bahá who was seated at His desk placed one small piece on the desk. Khalíl who was standing there at attention suddenly noticed that the mouse came, climbed up the desk, got the sugar and started eating it. Khalíl says: "I was uncomfortable and wanted to get rid of the mouse be any means." But the Master said: "You must not harm or kill any animal around here. This mouse harms no one." The mouse ate the sugar
and left. Khalíl was still uncomfortable about the mouse being there. After a while the Master called Khalíl and asked him to capture the mouse and without hurting it, take it to Him. Then He said to Khalíl "Take it to the gate and free it." Khalíl asked the Master: "Beloved Master, what made you decide to remove the mouse?"
'Abdu’l-Bahá replied: "This mouse is pregnant and this room is not suitable for such developments." Khalíl took the mouse to the gate and set it free. He says that no one was allowed to ever kill any such pests around holy places.

Khalíl Ardikání

## Jináb-i-Abu'l Fadáil Embraces the Faith

The marvellous story of Jináb-i-Abu'l Fadá'il's embracing the Faith is one of the sweetest stories in the history of the Cause of God. He was guided to the Faith through Karbiláií Husayn, the horseshoe man, who was an illiterate, ordinary man.

Karbilá‘í Husayn had an insignificant little shop on the way to 'Abdu'l-'Azím's shrine and whenever a man, traveling on his horse or donkey to the shrine, happened to need his ride re-shod, Husayn would render the service. He was notorious in engaging his customers in discussions about the Faith, as soon as he had a captive audience.

On Fridays, when the great divines went to the shrine they would usually use his services as needed. This particular day Jináb-i-Abu'l Fadá'il (an outstanding doctor of Islamic theology) was heading toward the shrine when he found out he needed Husayn's services.

As Husayn shoed the horse and Abu'l Fadá'il was pacing up and down, Husayn mustered up the courage and said: "Your eminence, I have a question that if you answer it, it would make me very happy." Jináb-i-Abu'l Fadá'il acceded to his request. Husayn said: "I have heard it on the authority of a reliable tradition that every drop of rain is carried on the wings of an angel. Is it true?" Abu'l Fadá'il replied: "Of course."

Husayn continued: "This poses a problem for me," and to Abu'l Fadá-il's inquiry for an explanation he added: "Isn't there another reliable tradition that says angels do not descend where there are dogs?" When Abu'l Fadá'il confirmed the authenticity of this tradition, Husayn added, "I am now quite perplexed; for it should never
rain in houses where there are dogs." Abu'l Fadá'il, stuck for an answer, told Husayn to carry on with his task and that it was not his place to ask such questions.

Later, Abu'l Fadá'il was intrigued about this man and his beliefs. His entourage tried to minimize and discredit the episode stating that Husayn was a Bábí and often spoke nonsense.

Abu'l Fadá'il, however, was profoundly affected and thus began hearing the truth of the Cause from Áqá Muhammad 'Alí, the felt merchant.

## ‘Abdu'l-Babás Wedding

Mr. Sahíhí related the story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's wedding as recorded in Mr. Húshang Mahmúdís book entitled, Some Notes from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Time.
"When Munírih Khánum was instructed to come to 'Akká from Iran, she arrived in the company of her brother Mírzá 'Alí and Jináb-i-Shaykh Salmán and took up residence at Mírzá Musá Kalím's (Bahá'u'lláh's brother) for five months. By this time, 'Abbúd had gradually warmed to Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá showing great fondness. One day he went to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and asked: 'Why don't you get married?’ ‘Abdu’l-Bahá responded simply: ‘Because I do not have a residence.' Imagine an Arab offering to a Persian: 'You can have a room in my house to live in.' That is exactly what 'Abbúd did and wedding plans were arranged.
"When the news reached Bahá'u'lláh, He was very pleased. Arrangements were made by Ásíyih Khánum and the Greatest Holy Leaf. One day Bahá’u'lláh called 'Abdu'lBahá and told Him to be back home early. When 'Abdu'lBahá asked the reason, Bahá'u'lláh responded: 'Because We want You to be married today; this will be Your wedding day.' 'Abdu'l-Bahá obeyed and returned home at four o'clock finding that wedding arrangements had been made with those in attendance being limited to the Holy Family and 'Abbúd's three daughters. (It was not customary for men to be present.)
"Ásíy ih Khánum and the Greatest Holy Leaf had made a very simple white-gray wedding dress for Munírih Khánum. One of 'Abbud's daughters with hairdressing
and makeup skills had requested Munírih Khánum permission to do a little makeup for her but it had not been accepted. She only braided Munírih Khánum's hair placing the braids on her shoulder and a head covering over it. Thus she was taken to the presence of the Blessed Beauty. That day the total number of those present did not exceed twelve.
"After the Family was seated, the Blessed Beauty spoke some words and handed the bride a Tablet revealed in Baghdád asking her to chant it. The bride, who had a good chanting voice, chanted the Tablet. Bahá'u'lláh then asked if she knew 'Halih Halih Yá Bishárat’ to which she replied in the affirmative and Bahá'u'lláh asked her to chant that as well. After a few more words, Bahá'u'lláh said, 'It is blessed,' and to Munírih Khánum, 'Well, then, you chant a prayer too." After this, all left the room. (This is the same room in which the Kitáb-i-Aqdas was revealed.)
"Munírih Khánum said 'I am the only bride to chant the Tablet, the song and the prayer all myself.' Refreshment was limited to tea and some sweets. 'Abdu'l-Bahá's wedding was that simple."

Húshang Mahmúdí

## ‘Abdu'l-Babá in America

Mr. Kámrán Sahíhí related a story told to him by the beloved Hand of the Cause Dr. Varqá: "My father went to America in the company of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. One day in New York 'Abdu'l-Bahá was tired and had gone to his room upstairs to rest a while. Someone knocked at the door.
"When the door was opened a relatively old man walked in with a cane in his hand and, after saying the Bahá'í salutatory Alláh'u'Abhá, expressed the desire to visit 'Abdu'l-Bahá. When told that the visit was not timely at the moment, he retorted: 'Please go and let 'Abdu'lBahá know that so and so wishes to see him.' (Dr. Varqá could not recall the name of the individual whose name is mentioned in the memoirs of Dr. Varqá's father.) Again it was pointed out to this man that a visit was not timely at that point and again the individual requested that his message be taken to 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
"So, they went to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and mentioned that this elderly Bahá'í man had come and insisted to be granted a visit. 'Abdu'l-Bahá allowed the visit. When he arrived ‘Abdu’l-Bahá asked him: ‘What do you want?’ The old man replied: 'I have come to tell You that I wish to be Your father for four hours.'
"Everyone present was surprised at this request. 'Abdu'l-Bahá told him: 'You wish to be My father? Fine, but what for?' The man replied: 'As Your father I wish to tell you to go to Your room, close the door, do not talk to anyone and rest for four hours.' 'Abdu'l-Bahá replied: 'As a son, I will obey' and He went to His room and rested."

Dr. Varqá added: "That man sat on a chair motionless for four hours, resting on his cane and not uttering
a word. After four hours, he noticed 'Abdu’l-Bahá coming out refreshed, saying: 'Indeed, a father is a good gift.'"

Kámrán Sahíhí

## Khalìl Ardikánís Dream

Jináb-i-Fádil-i Ardikání, member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for Asia, one day related the following at Landegg Academy:
"My uncle, Khalíl Ardikání, as a youth used to do handyman, gardening and custodial work at the holy places for fourteen or fifteen years. He used to take a nap under a tree in the afternoon.
"One day during his nap he dreamt that he was in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence. ‘Abdu'l-Bahá instructed him to saddle the donkey and take it to the train station. When he awoke he thought that the Master never arrived at the train station in the morning and that because he was sleepy perhaps he wasn't thinking straight. He fell asleep again.
"Again he dreamt that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had arrived and wanted him to take the donkey to the train station. He woke up and thought that he must go to the train station; if the Master arrived all would be well and otherwise he would simply head back with the donkey. So, he set out for 'Akká on the donkey, but once he got to the station he found that no train was there.
"As he started to leave he heard the train whistle, so he waited. Passengers got off one-by-one and suddenly he saw that the Master had arrived.

After 'Abdu'l-Bahá mounted the donkey, He turned to Khalíl and said: 'Khalíl, how many times must I ask you to bring the donkey?"

## The Sick Man and the Turkish Doctor

One day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story:
A sick man went to a Turkish doctor complaining about a loss of strength and energy. After examining the patient, the doctor told him, "Your weakness is simply due to your advanced age."

The patient complained about indigestion. The doctor replied, "That is also due to your age."

The patient said, "I have difficulty with my hearing." the doctor replied, "That, too, is related your age."

The patient complained about his diminishing eyesight. The doctor asserted, "That is also due to old age."

The patient got angry and cursing the doctor said, "May your house collapse on your head. Have you not learned anything about medicine besides these words, 'It is due to old age"?"

The doctor retorted, "Your anger is also due to old age!"

## Qualities Pleasing to Baha'u'lláh

One day, during the fast, at dinner, Hand of the Cause of God, Abu'l-Gásim Faizí related the following for those present:

The Ancient Beauty was very fond of the following four qualities:

1. A person with a happy disposition.
2. A person who finishes a task that he starts.
3. Those who are brave and audacious.
4. Those who suffice with praising others rather than finding fault.

Bahá'u'lláh felt sad about the following five unseemly characteristics afflicting mankind:

1. Those who see themselves as knowledgeable and feel proud of it.
2. Those who render a valuable service or initiate a useful innovation, but show pride about their accomplishment.
3. Those who feel proud about their lineage.
4. Those who are proud of their physical beauty and attraction.
5. Those who regard themselves as wealthy and are proud of it.

Then Mr. Faízí added at the end of his discourse the following words of the Ancient Beauty:
"It is impossible to expect insight from those who are proud."
(Unauthorized translation)

## Nabíl and Málmírí

It is related that Jináb-i-Málmírí, the father of Mr. Adíb Tahirzádih, was fond of drinking tea and "counting" his prayer beads (rosary). For a while he shared a room with Nabíl-i-A'zam who was uncomfortable with this habit of his roommate and would ask him unsuccessfully not to drink so much tea and not to constantly count the prayer beads. The home of these two in 'Akká was roughly facing the White Souk. Nabíl, who was a tall and robust man, was quite miffed at Jináb-i-Málmírís annoying habits. (Even Bahá'u'lláh had told Málmírí that he drank too much tea and it was best if he drank white tea).

One day, in Málmírí's absence, Nabíl hung Málmírís rosary from the ceiling. When Málmírí returned he tried to retrieve the rosary. As there were no chairs or tables around to climb on, he kept hopping up but due to his short stature he could not reach the rosary. Suddenly, he heard the Blessed Beauty asking: "Jináb-i-Mírzá Táhir, what are you doing?" The next day, Bahá’u'lláh told Nabíl not to annoy Mírzá Táhir so much and to bring the rosary down and give it back to him.

[^1]Kámrán Sahíhí

## A Story about the Companions

Once, there were three companions in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh: Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí Isfahání, Zayn'ulMuqarrabín and Mishkín Galam.

Bahá'u'lláh asked the three: "Do you want Me to send you to the Abhá Kingdom?"

Mírzá Haydar 'Alí responded: "I surrender to whatever is Thy holy will."

Mishkín Galam said: "No, my Beloved; I want to be here in Thy presence."

Zayn’ul-Muqarrabín said to Hájí Mírzá Haydar ‘Alí: "Tell the Blessed Beauty that I am hard of hearing and can't hear Him."

## A Story from Nabil

One day, a number of companions were busy digging in the gardens in front of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's residence. Nabíl arrived and they asked him to help in the digging but he refused.

Again they asked him and again he declined. At this time the Master arrived and inquired as to how the friends were doing. The friends complained to the Master about Nabil's refusal to help with digging.

The Master, after a pause, smiled and supported Nabíl's stand. The companions were baffled. The Master added: "He is Nabíl by name and Na Bíl (no digging) in demeanor".

The companions broke into laughter and the Master left the group, smiling.

## The Haifa Doctor

There was a doctor in Haifa who was not favoured by the beloved Master. One day in a jovial mood the Master was heard reciting:

The Angel of Death went to God<br>Prostrating in His presence, he complained:<br>There is a doctor in our neighbourhood<br>Who takes a hundred lives to my taking one.<br>Either put a stop to his practice<br>Or assign me to a different job.

## Russian Czar's Supplication

When the Blessed Beauty was in Adrianopole, He sent a Tablet addressed to Czar Alexander II, telling him, "You were praying in your heart beseeching God to assist you. We heard your prayer and your wish will be granted."

In Isfahán there was a certain Muhammad Rahím who upon embracing the Cause set out to teach, oblivious to afflictions and harm. Even his father disowned him. Gradually he lost all his wealth and set out for another city and found work in a mine in Sabzivár. The Russian Consul who lived near Sabzivár was looking for Bahá'ís and was interested to read Bahá'í books. The friends selected Áqá Muhammad Rahím for the task and he set off to see the Consul with a few Bahá'í books.

During his visit the Consul asked him to stay longer and continue their discussions. One night the Consul told Áqá Muhammad Rahím: "I had another idea in asking you to come here: tell me what is meant in the Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh addressed to the Czar." Then he recited the passage about Czar Alexander's prayer and asked Muhammad Rahím what the Czar had wished in his heart that Bahá'u'lláh had granted.

Muhammad Rahím thought to himself what the king might want from God: he has money, he has power, he has food and respect. He must have wanted something else. Muhammad Rahím figured that the Czar must have wished for victory in war as he had thus far been unable to succeed in the war with the Turks. He conveyed this thought to the Consul and urged him to write the Czar and assure him of victory in the war.

However, Muhammad Rahím immediately felt remorseful at having done so as he was not certain about his own
thinking on the matter. Thereafter, every time he would remember the episode his sense of remorse would return until he went to 'Akká on pilgrimage some time later.

After getting settled, Bahá'u'lláh's amanuensis came to visit him and asked him what he had told the Russian Consul. Hearing this question, Muhammad Rahím got very perturbed; how would the amanuensis know what he (Muhammad Rahím) had said to the Consul?

After a while another person arrived and asked the same question, causing Muhammad Rahím greater levels of anxiety. Finally, when he attained the presence of the Master, he related the episode in full detail.
'Abdu'l-Bahá assured him that what he had said to the Consul was correct because one day Bahá'u'lláh had said that at that moment someone was reciting the Tablet to the Czar and the Consul had asked a believer what the Czar's prayer had been about, and the believer's reply was correct. Then Bahá'u'lláh had gone on to mention Muhammad Rahím's name. Thus Muhammad Rahím found assurance and solace after hearing the Master.

The war in question was the war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire and at first it was not clear which side would succeed. Eventually Russia was victorious and the Turks defeated.

Summarized from Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh by Adib Taherzadeh

Adib Taherzadeh

## Mr. Faǐi's Poem

Beloved Hand of the Cause of God Mr. Abu'l-Qásim Faízí arrived at a friend's home in Holland during the fasting season of 121 B.E. (1966 C.E.). He composed this poem and gave it to his host:
"O Guardian of the Cause of God, Pleasant is the malady whose cure art thou, Joyous the journey that ends at your presence.
Blessed is the eye that beholds thy visage, Blessed is the realm of which thou art the sovereign.
'Tis all joy and pleasure, O my friend.
In the abode wherein
Thou art the guest.
No care, no fear shall befall the one
Whom thou art the protector and guardian."
Then he ended with the following:
"Learn thou humility, if thou seekest abundant bounty (Faízí)
For high land doth not receive much water.
How can rock be verdant in the spring,
Be thou the dirt (humble) in which flowers grow colorful.
"From Hand of the Cause of God, Abu’l-Qásim Faízí."

Abu'l-Fadl Rahmání

## Colins Gate

Usually the Beloved Guardian went to Switzerland every summer to spend a few days for vacation and rest. He would always stay in the same apartment he occupied as a student in his youth, as it was very inexpensive.

One year, Amelia Collins noticed that it was time for the Guardian's vacation but he was not going. After waiting for a day or two she went to the Guardian and inquired as to the reason for his not going for holidays. He replied that he had much work to do.

Again, after a few days she went to the Guardian, and pleaded that with his very heavy work load and long hours he needed to have a few days of rest and that he must go as usual. The Guardian replied that he would go if he caught up with his work.

Again after a few days Amelia noticed that the Guardian continued to be very busy and had no apparent plans to go for a vacation. This time she was determined; she went to the beloved Guardian's presence and very pleasantly insisted that he must go for a rest so as to be able to carry on all the important work he was doing.

After her repeated pleadings the Guardian turned to her and said; "Amelia, I have no money to go on vacation." Amelia kept silent, returned to her room and picked up her savings totaling five thousand dollars and went back to the Guardian and said that if the obstacle was money he could accept this meager offering and go on vacation as it was absolutely necessary for his health.

After a brief pause the Guardian said. "Very well, I will go." The next day, early in the morning, he set off.

After about ten days, while Amelia was in the Holy Precinct, she noticed that a truck entered the Bahjí grounds-a rather unusual occurrence. When the truck got closer, she noticed that the Guardian was sitting beside the driver.

She was perturbed to see the Guardian returning so soon and sitting in a truck. As she walked over to the truck, the Guardian got off, beaming with joy and addressed her saying, "Amelia, I thought it better to use the money you gave me to order a large iron gate for the Holy Precinct and Bahjí Mansion rather than go on vacation. So I ordered this gate which is in the truck and waited until it was ready and brought it with me. I will have it installed, dedicated to your name."

Mr. Zabíh


Collins Gate

## Pilgrim House in Haifa

Mr. Abu'l-Fadl Rahmání has sent me the following account of the building of the Pilgrim House in Haifa, undertaken by his father:

When Áqá Mírzá Ja'far Shírází (the father of Hádí and 'Abu'l-Fadl Rahmání) went on pilgrimage to Haifa, he found 'Abdu'l-Bahá very concerned about the fact that pilgrims, who came from long distances and sometimes on foot, did not have a proper place to stay and out of necessity stayed in coffee houses belonging to covenant breakers.

While they came for pilgrimage in utmost humility and submission, at times covenant breakers misled these pure souls and caused grief for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Áqá Mírzá Ja'far, noticing 'Abdu'l-Bahá's concern, pleaded to be permitted to construct a pilgrim house.

At first, 'Abdu'l-Bahá did not accept the offer. Áqá Mírzá Ja'far, witnessing how distraught the pilgrims were staying at these coffee houses, once again pleaded with 'Abdu'l-Bahá who finally granted permission but was mindful that purchase of the land and the construction cost could be an imposition on Áqá Mírzá Ja'far. So, he told Mírzá Ja'far that he would agree only if on the way back to 'Ishqábád Mírzá Ja’far would stop in Bádkúbih and visit Músá Taghiuv giving him the Master's message to participate in the construction costs.

Taghiuv had asked 'Abdu'l-Bahá for wealth. As his wish had been granted, he had gone from running a small retail kerosene store to amassing, by the grace of God, a huge fortune including three oil wells.

Áqá Mírzá Ja'far boldly pleaded with 'Abdu'l-Bahá to
be allowed the bounty of carrying out the enterprise on his own. However, 'Abdu'l-Bahá insisted that he should go to Músá and bring his reply, whether accepting or declining, upon Mírzá’s return.

So, Mírzá Ja'far set off for Bádkúbih and sought out Musá's address. Upon arrival at Musá's office, he found a large group in the waiting room wanting to see Músá, either to get a franchise permit or conduct other business with him. For three days, Áqá Mírzá Ja'far kept going to Músá's office and did not succeed in seeing him. (In those days there were no hotels in Bádkúbih, so Áqá Mírzá Ja'far stayed in a coffee house.)

On the third day, losing his patience, he curtly told the doorman at Músá's office, "Go tell Taghiuv I am Ja'far Shírází and am here at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's instruction to give him a message. I have been waiting for three days and my turn has not yet come. I must head off to 'Ishqábád immediately."

At this time, the door opened and Músá, who was going for lunch, asked Áqá Mírzá Ja'far, "What is wrong? Why are you upset?". Mírzá told him about his long three days wait and gave him 'Abdu'l-Bahá's message as to whether Músá wanted to participate in the construction of the pilgrims house. Músá asked, "What do you need?"

Áqá Mírzá Ja'far replied, "I have placed an order for six hundred cases of tea from Calcutta and Bombay. The merchandise is ready. I am going to sell them and get some money together so that upon return to Haifa the land can be purchased and the construction started."

Músá thought for a while and replied, "You go to 'Ishqábád, gather your money and come back to Bádkúbih so we can talk and see what can be done." Áqá Mírzá Ja'far found Musá's response cold, so he headed off to 'Ishqábád and discovered that in Russia there was a shortage of tea and prices had risen six fold from three months earlier and several brokers were awaiting his arrival to purchase his tea.

Áqá Mírzá Ja'far told his business associates, "I have a commitment in Haifa and I must gather my funds immediately and return to Haifa to follow up on that commitment. Sell the tea as soon as possible so that I can leave with my pockets full." Presently he realized that God's mercy and ‘Abdu'l-Bahá's favor have enveloped him as the price of tea had risen so sharply.

At any rate, after a brief period he returned to Haifa and on the way he had a stop in Bádkúbih to visit Músá Taghiuv as agreed before, again waiting behind his office door for two days.

When they met, Musás first words were, "So you went to "Ishqábád and have now returned with money." Áqá Mírzá Ja'far replied, "Yes I did. What shall I give 'Abdu'lBahá as your response?" Músá said, "You go and purchase the land and start the construction. When you run out of funds cable me and I'll send what you need." Áqá Mírzá Ja'far was upset and left for Haifa.

At the Master's house, Khusraw, the servant, announced Áqá Mírzá Ja'far’s arrival. 'Abdu'l-Bahá saw that Áqá Mírzá Ja'far was tired so He decided that He would go to see him instead.

A few minutes later, 'Abdu'l-Bahá started strolling toward the house and after greeting, embracing and welcoming him, told Mírzá Ja'far, "I hope you had a good trip," and then asked him, "Did you give Músá Taghiuv my messsage?" Áqá Mírzá Ja'far bowed his head and related the story of his two visits with Músá and the content of their conversation. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was nonplussed and a period of silence ensued. Then He said, "He who gave Músá Taghiuv the wealth has, in this hour, taken it away."

Then He instructed Áqá Mírzá Ja'far to purchase a rather large piece of property as later on several buildings for the Faith would be erected on it. Áqá Mírzá Ja'far, along with ‘Abdu’l-Bahǎ’s son-in-law, Áqá Mírzá Hádí,
searched for a few days and found a large orchard which belonged to an Assyrian.

After some discussion, an agreement was reached and at the land title office Áqá Mírzá Ja'far informed the vendor that the purchaser was His holiness 'Abbás Effendi, so it should be registered in His name. Then he took the title registry book to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence and reported what had transpired. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, smiling, turned to Áqá Mírzá Ja'far and said, "You have paid for the land and I should sign the documents?" Áqá Mírzá Ja'far replied, "Perchance, no trace of me and my name will remain, but the name of Thy blessed personage shall last in the world at least five hundred thousand years." 'Abdu'l-Bahá joyfully signed the registry.

When the building was completed six months later, a great party was held. All the pilgrims and companions were waiting outside the building for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to be the first person to enter the Pilgrim House.

After His arrival, Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí Isfahání stepped forward with pen and paper and pleaded with the Master to inscribe something that could be engraved on the front of the building entrance. The Master took the pen and paper and beaming with joy said, "What can I write other than 'Áqá Mírzá Ja'far, the mad-man, madman,' for in these days when everyone is thinking about his own house and comfort and pleasures, Áqá Mírzá Ja'far is mindful to free us from the troubles caused by the covenant breakers and has constructed this house."

Then He inscribed, "This is a great house and its founder is Mírzá Ja’far Rahmání Shírází." At this point, 'Andalíb (the poet) recited an impromptu piece of poetry for the occasion.

Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered the Pilgrim House, looked at the green tables and place settings and walked toward the balcony over-looking the sea. Then glancing to the right and to the left He said, "Truly some poets are inspired
from a mysterious source; for example, Háfiz must have forseen the building of this structure when he wrote:

> Joyous be Shíráz and its matchless environs, May God protect it from demise, May Rukn-Ábád ${ }^{1}$ be remembered a hundred times For the life of Khizr $^{\text {g grants its }}$ limpid water Ja'far Ábád ${ }^{3}$ and Mussallá ${ }^{4}$ are blessed with a pleasant breeze.

Then, as He got to the word Mussallá, he glanced at the Pilgrim House and continued:

Come to Shíráz and seek thou the spirit of holiness From its people, endowed with perfections.

Then, seating himself, He added, "Any undertaking when first attempted has a special blessing and grace.
"For instance, the undertaking of Jináb-i-Hájí Vakíl'ud-Dawlih Afnán, who, with his initiative and effort, constructed the first House of Worship of the world in 'Ishqábád, has this special blessing and grace. Later other Houses of Worship will be built around the world, but as Jináb-i-Afnán built this historic edifice, it has that grace. Similarly, this first Pilgrim House is something else that Áqá Mírzá Ja’far has built to ease our minds. Later, innumerable guest houses will be built for the Cause, but this first one is another thing, as it was done with purity of motive. All the Messengers and those nigh unto Him will be praying for him, beseeching confirmations and increasing success for him."

1. A district of Shíráz
2. A minor prophet of old
3. Another district
4. Another district

## The Mask

One day the mother of 'Abdu'l 'Alí, the Jewish physician, went to the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá wearing a mask covering part of her face.

As soon as she saw 'Abdu’l-Bahá she said: "Beloved Master, when I see you I feel shy and therefore I am wearing this mask."
'Abdu’l-Bahá smiled and replied; "Don't be shy, pull down your mask." When she did, the Master said: "Pull it down further." She did so until none of her features were showing.

Then He said, "Now it is good, it is very good. Neither can you see anyone, nor can anyone see you!"

## The Peacock Egg

One of the covenant breakers, who was also related to the Blessed Beauty, repeatedly would ask the gardener of the Holy Precinct for a peacock egg, which the gardener refused.

Finally the man appealed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá complaining that the gardener did not give him the egg. 'Abdu'lBahá instructed the gardener to give him a peacock egg.

The next day, the gardener sent the covenant-breaker a peacock egg. The man placed the egg under a hen and patiently waited for the arrival of a peacock chick but nothing happened. Finally he went back to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá expressing surprise that no chick had arrived.

Later, 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the man's query to the gardener who responded; "I did not want to give this covenant breaker a peacock egg from the Holy Precinct, but since You had instructed me I obeyed. However, I first cooked the egg before giving it to him. This way I was able to obey Your instruction and at the same time deprive this covenant breaker from having a peacock offspring from the Holy Precinct."
'Abdu'l-Bahá just smiled.

## A Smiling Dervish Embraces the Faith

A smiling dervish related the story of his embracing the Faith to a Bahá'í military officer commissioned in Bihbahán:

I was a dervish and, like other devishes, would walk the streets and bazaars, calling "O Master! O Master!" and singing poetry. One day a respectable man stopped in front of me and said, "I will hold you by your sleeve and have you swear whether your call ' O Master! O Master!' is for real and whether you truly believe in the Master. Are you really a lover of your master?"

I said, "Were I not a lover of God, of my Master, would I appear as you see me now?"

The gentleman replied, "If you are telling the truth would you like me to show you the true Master?" Immediately I agreed.

Then he said, "Go until you reach Haifa and you will see the Master of the world who now resides there and His blessed name is 'Abbás Effendi. Then you'll see that the real Master is living and then you will fall in love with that luminous Visage, your heart will be illuminated and your call of 'O Master! O Master!' will gain new potency."

I told him to give me a road map and directions so I could start right away. He gave me the necessary guidance and I set off; after four months of walking, suffering from the sun, the rain, wild animals, thirst and hunger, I arrived, exhausted, in Haifa. There I let it be known that I was there to visit 'Abbás Effendi. I was told that He had gone to the United States but was on His way back, though it was not known when He would return. So I spread my
sheep-skin coat under a tree. Later I discovered that I was in the vicinity of the Báb's shrine.

During the days I would wander around and at night would return to that tree. I was waiting to see when the Master would come. One day a gardener came and told me that I was waiting unnecessarily, for 'Abdu'l-Bahá may not return for quite a while yet. I told him to mind his business; it was a matter between my God and me. He was trying to force me away from the tree.

While we were disputing the situation, a tall lady with brown eyes and wearing a head scarf approached us from among the trees and asked why we were talking so loud. I told her my story. She told the gardener not to bother me and arranged for me to have all my meals sent from the house of the Holy Family. She asked me to stay there until 'Abdu'l-Bahá's return.

So, I stayed there for about two weeks until 'Abdu'lBahá returned. As soon as I looked upon His face I felt overwhelmed; I offered my humility and found myself a believer and wanted to head home (having found the object of my quest), but He bade me to stay a few days. I was overjoyed and blessed to remain in His presence.

A few days later we were informed that in two days, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Interpreter of the Word of God, would dismiss the pilgrims. I gathered my things and prepared for my return journey. At the appointed hour we all went for leave-taking. It was obvious how everyone felt about this separation. While 'Abdu'l-Bahá was not far from their hearts, they had to leave His physical presence. Tears ran down our cheeks and we kept wiping them so as to let our eyes take a few more glimpses of His holy being and record that visage in our minds.

After a moment of silence, His gentle voice began giving counsel and edification on the teaching work and raising the call to the people of the world. An hour passed and we were all inebriated with the wine of His utterance. He then had an attendant bring a bowl full of gold coins.

He bestowed a gold coin on each of the pilgrims and bade him farewell.

When it was my turn, the last pilgrim, He embraced me, kissed me on the cheeks and said, "O, dervish, I wish to bestow upon you all the remaining coins, as dervishes believe that abandonment should be complete." I obeyed and with both hands emptied the contents of the bowl and put them in my pockets. Then I said, "O my beloved, when I was leaving Iran for Haifa, as you can see, I had sewn a few gold coins inside the lining of my cloak as a precaution against highway robbers, intending to sell them when needed to enable me to come on pilgrimage." The Holy Being looked at the gold coins and said, "May God grant you plenty. Be in God's protection."

Friends who knew I had attained the presence of my Master would come to visit me and I would relate for them the story of my pilgrimage and His bestowing on me the gold coins. Several of the friends each bought one of these coins at four or five times their face value, regarding them as blessed objects.

Suddenly I noticed only one coin was remaining so I decided to keep that one as my working capital for an occupation and leave dervish's way of life. One day when I was outside the city I saw a waterfall which was a favorite picnic site where people would go for an outing on Fridays along with their families and food and refresh-ments-going on foot, on horseback or by bicycle.

When I saw the waterfall, God inspired me with the thought to buy property in the vicinity, including the waterfall. Then I could build a flour mill and sell the surrounding land parcels to farmers, as they would be choice parcels with plenty of water; quite suitable for cultivation with great yield potential. Then I could use the mill to grind the farmer's wheat and barley into flour. In brief, many God-pleasing benefits were envisaged. I searched until I found the owner of the property and completed the transaction. With the gold coins bestowed by 'Abdu'l-

Bahá, I began construction of the mill and purchasing the equipment and then began selling the land parcels. I named the mill after my son: Sálih's mill. Even farmers from far away would bring their crops saying, "We take our crops to Sálih's mill and spend time at the beautiful waterfall, while the mill prepares our flour."

Praised be God, that by the blessings of these coins of 'Abdu'l-Bahá I became a firm believer in the Ancient Beauty and the Greatest Name as well as setting aside my dervish way.

With God's mercy, through the purchase of the property and subdividing and selling parcels at a profit, I have gained a healthy fortune. My family lives in comfort and utmost joy under the shadow of His peerless bounties. This is the story of my "O Master! O Master!" refrain. It was the Master who brought me to this ending.

## Practice

One of the kings of Iran, King Sanjar, was an avid and expert hunter. One day, he went hunting, taking along a favorite handmaiden. From a distance, he saw a deer scratching its ear with its hoof.

The king said to the handmaiden; "Would you like me to attach the hoof and ear of the deer?" and presently let the arrow fly, piercing both the deer's leg and ear. Turning back to the handmaiden, he asked what she thought of his marksmanship. The handmaiden replied: "Practice makes perfect." The king was vexed at this reply and even though he dearly loved the handmaiden, he ordered his minister to kill her and headed back to his palace.

The minister, who was wise, thought that the king was angry when giving this edict and would likely regret his own decision-thereby endangering the minister's life (for having carried out the action). So, he took the handmaiden to his own village and entrusted her to the care of the village reeve, enjoining him to keep the matter a secret.

After a few days, the handmaiden requested the reeve to build a wide staircase to the roof of the house, which he obliged. After a while, the reeve's cow bore a calf. The handmaiden used to carry this calf on her shoulder up the stairs, several times a day. Gradually, as the calf grew, so did the handmaiden's strength in carrying it up the stair with ease.

When the calf was a year old and quite heavy, the handmaiden asked the reeve to request the minister to somehow get the king to visit the reeve's house. The reeve obliged. One day, after hunting, the minister invited the
king to dinner at the reeve's house. After the dinner, the reeve politely told the king, "I have a daughter who performs a most interesting act."

The handmaiden with her face covered, carried the calf up the stairs and back and asked the king what he thought of the feat. The king pondered a moment and said: "Practice makes perfect."

As soon as the king uttered these words, the handmaiden took off her mask and said: "Your majesty, that's all I had said and you issued the edict to have me killed."

The king was pleased to see his favorite handmaiden again, pardoned her and bestowed gifts upon the reeve and the minister returning to his palace with great joy and happiness.

## Mandarin Oranges from the Blessed Precinct

One of the pilgrims to the Holy Shrines, Mr. Habíbu'lláh Mudabbir, who was quite tall, was in the habit of picking a few oranges in the gardens and eating them as a blessing. Other pilgrims were concerned that the beloved Guardian might be displeased were he to find out. The news did eventually reach him.

One day, the beloved Guardian talking to the pilgrims near the orange trees, addressed Mr. Mudabbir and asked him: "Have you ever tasted these oranges?"

All the pilgrims were curious to know how Mr. Mudabbir would respond in this delicate situation. With his typical agility of mind he replied in a delighted tone: "Not from your hand, beloved Guardian."

The reply pleased the Guardian and others. The Guardian picked an orange with his own hand and offered it to Mr. Mudabbir, fulfilling his wish.

## Figs

One night, as figs were brought to the dinner table after partaking of the meal, 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story:
"In the days of Jazzar (the governor of the city) there was an old woman who made a living from the proceeds of a fig tree in her house. In season, every day she would pick some figs, take them to the market and sell them. One year, a thief appeared who would come at night, pick the figs and leave. She could not catch the thief, so she complained to the Governor. The Governor, Jazzar, thought for a few minutes, and suggested to the old woman to insert a kernel of barley in all the ripe figs in such a way that it could not be noticed.
"The next day, Jazzar personally went to the city gate and waited there. He ordered that anyone importing figs into the city should first take them to the Governor to buy. As each person came with a basket of figs he would pick a few and open them up until he found the figs with barley inside them. Presently, he asked the owner from where he had stolen the figs. The thief said, 'I have not stolen them; they are from my own trees.' Jazzar told him; 'If you do not tell the truth I will have you beheaded.' So he immediately confessed and was punished."

As I was writing this story, I remembered that about fifty years ago I was touring Europe along with my brother. We got to Italy. It was late in the day and we decided to stay at a small hotel near the sea. We drove for some two hours but found no vacancy. Someone gave us directions to the house of a university professor who rented rooms
in his house during the summer. We went there and as it happened he had a room for us; we stayed there and got up early the next morning. My brother said, "Look, there are some fig trees in the yard." We went there and picked some of those lovely ripe figs, enjoyed them and repeated this the next day.

The third day when my brother and I were both still asleep, we heard someone knocking at the door. I opened the door, still in my pyjamas, and saw the professor with a plate full of ripe figs.

He said, "You are my dear guests; I am not happy to see you get up early in the morning to pick figs and miss your rest. I picked these figs last night and kept them in the fridge for you to enjoy and not miss your sleep."

We were embarrassed to find out that both days as we were picking figs, the professor had seen us from his window.

## Siyyid Sádiq

There was a prejudiced man in Tihrán, called Siyyid Sádiq. His wife, Fá’izih Khánum was a very devoted and dedicated Bahá'í. She kept talking to her husband about the truth of the Faith, but it had no effect on him.

Every time Fá'izih Khánum would hear of a travelling teacher coming to Tihrán, she would find a way of inviting him to her home to hold a fireside and every time, after the teacher's departure, Siyyid Sádiq would make life miserable for her and even beat her up and would insist that she thoroughly wash all the dishes to purify them.

One day, a teacher from Baghdád related a tradition proving the truth of the Cause but Siyyid Sádiq argued that it was not true and such a tradition did not even exist. A few days later, by coincidence, he saw the tradition in a book causing him to reflect that perhaps there was truth to what was being said.

Meanwhile, Fá'izih Khánum was undaunted about trying to teach her husband, in spite of the beatings. Finally, one day, Siyyid Sádiq told her; "You don’t let go and I can't accept what you say. So I will ask a question from your Master, 'Abbás Effendi. If He answers me properly I'll accept the Faith, if not you'll have to become a Muslim." The wife accepted the offer quite confidently.

Siyyid Sádiq brought two envelopes to his wife, saying "Send one to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the other will be in safe keeping (with the Spiritual Assembly) until His reply comes and we will then open the second envelope." A while later, when a group of pilgrims were heading off for their pilgrimage, Fá’izih Khánum gave them the envelope addressed to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

One of the pilgrims, Mírzá Yúsif Khán Vujdání, later related that when they were in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence most of his talks referred to people trying to test manifestations of God in various ways. During one of these talks, a lot of letters were placed before 'Abdu’l-Bahá. Usually, between five hundred and a thousand letters would be brought before Him.

As He was seated and was speaking He reached into the bag of letters and pulled one out, and opened it with a letter opener, pulling out a blank piece of paper. Then He said, "You see they have sent a blank piece of paper and intend to test ‘Abdu'l-Bahá." (Siyyid Sádiq had written the question he intended to ask 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the envelope kept by the Spiritual Assembly, but had deliberately sent a blank piece of paper to the Master, thinking that if the Cause was true, He would know the question and would provide the proper answer.)
'Abdu'l-Bahá then added that if it were not for the sake of that man's wife who was a dedicated servant of the Cause no reply would have been given, but for her sake He would reply. Then, on that same blank piece of paper, He wrote a few lines and had it mailed out.

After a while the Tihrán Spiritual Assembly notified Siyyid Sádiq that a reply to his pleading had arrived. Siyyid Sádiq told his wife to ask the Assembly to have the reply read out in the Assembly's presence, as there was a mystery involved. Then, he added to his wife, "I have sent a blank piece of paper to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the actual question is written out in the envelope that is in the Assembly's safe-keeping. We will open the envelope in the Assembly's presence for them to see the question and then see what is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's reply."

Fá'izih Khánum, perturbed and pale-faced, went to the Assembly and related the story. The Assembly responded that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had answered, so the letter would be opened in their presence and read out.

Thus, Siyyid Sádiq went to the Assembly. First he
extracted the envelope held in safe-keeping and loudly read out his question in which he had asked for elucidation of a certain tradition.

Then the envelope containing ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s reply was opened discussing the tradition dealing with knowledge. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had stated there were two types of knowledge: the knowledge that is acquired and the knowledge that deals with divine mysteries which is granted by God to whomever He wants.

When ‘Abdu'l-Bahá's reply was read Siyyid Sádiq found it to be exactly the answer to his question. Suite excited he got up, took off his turban, throwing it on the ground, and burst into weeping, asking his wife for forgiveness and prostrating before her, expressed sincere remorse saying, "Please, forgive me, forgive me, I repent, I was ignorant. Now I know this Cause is true."

Then, with great humility he requested the Assembly to write 'Abdu'l-Bahá asking permission for him to go on pilgrimage. Fortunately, permission for pilgrimage was granted and he, along with his wife, attained the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and became the recipients of His bountiful favours.

Then, 'Abdu'l-Bahá told Fá'izih Khánum, "Your husband dared to send a blank piece of paper. We are servants of the threshold of Abhá Beauty. I am not worthy to be tested."

## The First Pilgrim House in 'Akká

During the Ottoman reign, the 'Akká customs office was in a carvanserai which later was turned into a western pilgrim house. The lower level accommodated the mules and horses. Upstairs, 'Abdu'l-Bahá had rented a few rooms to serve as pilgrims' accommodation during their pilgrimage. This was during the period that Bahá'u'lláh had left the prison barracks and stayed in three different houses during a ten-month period.

As these pilgrims' rooms were adjacent to the animal quarters, mosquitoes and fleas were in abundance and the pilgrims could seldom have a good night's sleep. When the lights were turned on at night, they could see the swarm of insects, but the love of being in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá removed all traces of any concern for such minor discomfort and they saw suffering as the very healing balm. 'Abdu'l-Bahá used to say that He often used to go to visit the friends there and was reluctant to leave them. "One night I had a sheep skin coat on. After a short while the coat was full of fleas. I tolerated it for a while and then reversed the coat and put it back on so I could stay longer."

Mírzá Músá Kalím also spent some time in those quarters and once the Blessed Beauty came to the caravanserai to visit His brother. It was indeed the most inhospitable environment.

One morning, after a particularly hot and humid night, 'Abdu'l-Bahá had gone to visit the pilgrims and addressing the friends said with a smile: "So, last night the weather was fine and you rested well." One of the pilgrims, gifted with poetic skill, replied in poetry on the spot:

> All night long 'till dawn we had a party. Surrounding our bodies:
> The mosquito was the fiddler, the flea the dancer and I the harpist (referring to the need to scratch)
'Abdu'l-Bahá, laughing, showered the friends with His kindness and blessings and then left.

Mr. Zabíh

## The Priest and Häjí Míráa Haydar 'Alí

There was a Christian priest in Haifa who from time-to-time bothered the friends and paid no attention to what they had to say.

One day when Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí became aware of the situation, he went to the priest and asked him, "What is this hanging from your neck?" The priest responded, "This is Christ's cross."

Hájí commented, "Christ suffered so very much on the cross; for days and nights he suffered, nailed to the cross. Why have you hung that from your neck? You should wear something that Christ liked, something that served Christ."

The priest asked, "Like what?"
Hájí replied, "Christ had a donkey that served Him well and He liked it. It is better that you make a statute of that donkey and wear it on your neck."

The priest got very angry and immediately went to 'Abdu'l-Bahá to complain. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was kind to the priest and told him, "I will talk to Hájí" Then He dismissed the priest.

When Hájí attained the presence of the Master, 'Abdu'lBahá turned to him and said, "O, man of right conduct, again you have gone and uttered right things?"

## Azal and Mishkín Qalam

When the Ottoman government banished Bahá'u'lláh and His companions to 'Akká, it sent a few believers, including Mishkín Qalam, along with Azal to Cyprus. The believers were most chagrined and always longed to go to 'Akká and leave Cyprus. At that time, Azal was in frequent correspondence with all destinations. He used to put his correspondence in a basket hung from the ceiling with a rope and pulley.

As it happened, that year, it had not rained for quite some time in Cyprus and everyone, especially the farmers, was unhappy about it. When Mishkín Qalam would see people in the street he used to tell them that the reason for the lack of rain was that Azal engaged in sorcery and all his sorcery papers were in a basket hung from the ceiling in his room. This rumour spread throughout the city and after a while everyone believed that the reason for lack of rain was Azal's sorcery.

One day, people decided to break into Azal's house in his absence. They found the basket and burned everything in it.

That night, when Mishkín Qalam returned home he heard about what had happened, he prostrated himself and weeping said to himself: "O Bahá'u'lláh, what have I done? If it does not rain tomorrow I will be in deep trouble." He spent a while in prayers and, weeping, beseeched Bahá'u'lláh, with a contrite heart, to send rain.

The next morning he awoke to a heavy downpour. He was so happy that he broke into a dance and the affection of Cyprus citizenry toward him increased to the point that it facilitated Mishkín Qalam and a few other believers' departure from Cyprus.

## The King and His Minister

Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí, one of the early believers, relates the following story from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in memoirs he wrote at the Master's bidding, called Delight of the Hearts.

Once, there was a wise and clever king. One day he said to his minister that on the day of general audience, when all courtiers deck themselves up in full regalia and receive gifts from their king, "You must give me the answer to these three questions:
"What does God bear? What does He wear? And, what does He do?"

The poor minister surprised at the king's questions, went home crest-fallen, thinking about how he was going to reply to the king's questions at that special event and in front of all the notables and dignitaries.

The minister happened to have an extremely clever and gifted servant. When the servant saw his masters' bewilderment he inquired as to the reason. The minister told the servant that the king wanted him (the minister) to provide answers for three questions on the day of general audience. "How am I going to reply to these questions?"

The servant said: "I'll give you the answer to the third question on the day of the general audience. The answer to the first question is that God bears the burden of His servants. The answer to the second question is that He wears the garment of forgiveness for His servants' misdeeds."

On the appointed day when all dignitaries were present, the minister went to the king and offered the answer to the two questions as the servant had told him.

The king, who knew his minister well, was surprised and asked him who had told him these answers. The minister related what had transpired with his servant. The king told his minister: "It is better that the servant be the minister and you the servant."

When the servant was decked up in ministerial garb he turned to his former master and said: "The answer to the third question is that God takes away from one and gives to another, that is what God does-as you saw today."

Hájí Mízá Haydar 'Alí

## Hají Karím Khán

One day, at the gathering of the pilgrims, 'Abdu'lBahá related a story about Hájí Karím Khán and Násiri'dDín Sháh, to the effect that what Hájí Karím Khán did was to always write articles against the Faith, submit them to Násiri'd-Dín Sháh and receive gifts like an 'abá or a walking stick.

At one point, Násiri'd-Dín Sháh was alarmed at him (Hájí Karím Khán) because close to one half of the population of Iran were his followers.

One day he went to Násiri'd-Dín Sháh with a refutation article in his hand saying that he had written a book against Bahá’ís. Násiri'd-Dín Sháh told him: "Your books are of little result; it is my sword that cuts at the root of the Bahá'ís, not your words." He was abashed. Soon after, his enemies even nick-named him the "seven K's":

Karím, short, deaf, Kirmáni, impotent, bald, heretic (all these words in Persian begin with the letter K)

How they were both up-rooted!

## Shaykeb Mabmúd-i- Tráqi

When Bahá'u'lláh was incarcerated in 'Akká, the city was surrounded by a wall and access into the city was possible only through two gates: a sea gate and a land gate. Pilgrims who often traveled on foot from Iran, after crossing through Kirmánsháh and Baghdád (which took almost six months), would arrive at the land gate and would face many obstacles.

In banishing Bahá'u'lláh to the prison city, the Ottoman government had sent four Azalis to 'Akká as well. These were Siyyid Muhammad Isfahání, Nasr’ulláh Tafríshí, Áqá Ján Ka’j Kuláh and Ridá Gulí. These four kept vigil near the land gate to ensure no one would meet Bahá'u'lláh. They kept watch from the second story window of a building overlooking the land gate so that if a pilgrim, after spending some six months traveling on foot, intended to enter the city they could somehow prevent his entrance. Thus pilgrims were forced to sit outside the moat, waiting and gazing at the window of Baha'u'llah's prison cell, perchance He would come to the window and put His hand out the window, blessing them. This was the extent of their pilgrimage.

This situation lasted for some time. After two years and a few months, Bahá'u'lláh was released from the prison. Some of the friends, including Salmání, decided to get rid of these enemies and during the night went to their place and killed Siyyid Muhammad, Áqá Ján and another person. Bahá'u'lláh, who had just found some measure of relief from the rigors of prison and had settled into the house of Údí Khammár to find some rest, was once again faced with new hardships and afflictions. Officials surrounded Údí Khammár's house during the
night and removed Bahá'u'lláh, placing Him under arrest for three nights.

These events also caused new restrictions for pilgrims attempting to enter 'Akká. Later, one of 'Akká's high-ranking clerics, Shaykh Mahmúd Íráqí, embraced the Faith. After embracing the Faith, every night he would go to the land gate along with a few of his attendants carrying torch lights, waiting for any pilgrim who might arrive. If a pilgrim came, he would be given one of the torch lights and enter the city as the Shaykh's attendant. Who was this Shaykh Mahmúd and what became of him?

When Baháu'ulláh entered the prison city, Shaykh Mahmúd was a rabid enemy of the Ancient Beauty. During Bahá'u'lláh's incarceration in prison, Shaykh Mahmúd determined to kill Him believing that Bahá'u'lláh and His followers were heretics and that killing them was a religious necessity.

One day he hid a knife under his cloak and headed toward the prison, determined to kill Bahá’u'lláh. He asked officer Ahmad Jarráh, who was the commander of the barracks and responsible for the security of the Blessed Beauty, permission to visit Bahá'u'lláh. Ahmad Jarráh went to Bahá'u'lláh's presence and requested permission for Shaykh Mahmúd's visit. Bahá'u'lláh instructed Jarráh to tell him to sanctify his hand. When Jarráh returned with Bahá'u'lláh's response, the Shaykh was badly shaken and left.

After a while, he again decided to kill Bahá'u'lláh with his bare hands and again he requested a visit. Due to the Shaykh's standing, Jarráh went to Bahá'u'lláh's presence and once again submitted the request. This time Bahá'u'lláh told Jarráh to tell the Shaykh to sanctify his heart. Upon receiving this reply, the Shaykh entered the Blessed Beauty's presence and threw himself at His feet and weeping uncontrollaby declared his faith. The Shaykh went on to render many services and, as mentioned,
became an instrument in assisting the pilgrims to attain the presence of the Beloved.

Also, at the time of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's wedding, he was given the honour to be among the witnesses and sign the marriage certificate.

As well, when the martyrdom of the Purest Branch occurred, his request was granted to wash the body of the Purest Branch and prepare it for burial. And finally, the supreme honour bestowed upon him was that after the ascension of the Blessed Beauty at Bahjí, he had the bounty of assisting 'Abdu'l-Bahá to wash the body of Bahá'u'lláh.

## The Jen's Prayer

One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was talking about conditions of prayers and supplication, saying a prayer should not be for personal gain or motivated by selfish desires. Then He related the following story:

Three persons were voyaging on a boat: a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew. A severe storm erupted, tossing the boat in every direction and threatening a ship-wreck.

The Muslim started saying prayers beseeching God to "Drown this heretic Christian and save me."

The Christian then supplicated "O Lord! Destroy this Muslim who destroyed our religion and send him to the bottom of the sea soon, so that the boat remains afloat."

The two noticed that the Jew was not praying at all and asked him: "Why aren't you praying?" He replied: "I am praying silently, asking God to grant both your wishes!"

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## House of the Báb in Shiráz

Mr. Míssagh'u'lláh Noureddin has sent me the following story:

The honey-tongued custodian of the Báb's House in Shíráz, known as the mother of Áqá Ridá, was a very kind, sincere and sweet speaking lady. Once, late at night after pilgrimage to the House, when we were seated together in her room talking about different topics, she related a story that was most interesting and exciting and bestowed certitude to the heart of the listener.

She said that one night three thieves decided to enter the Blessed House. They placed a ladder against the wall in the adjacent house, attempting to get onto the roof. At first each one, in turn, showed reluctance to scale the ladder. Finally, one of them, feeling courageous, volunteered to be first.

Once on the roof, he saw a Young Siyyid slowly pacing the roof from one side to the other, pausing every now and then. The thief kept silent, waiting patiently for the youth to return inside the House so that the thief could persue his intentions. A long time passed and the Young Siyyid continued his pacing. The thief finally descended the ladder and related the story for his two accomplices.

At first the two expressed the view that the Youth would eventually get tired and would go inside. They waited for a while and then the second thief climbed the ladder. He witnessed the same scene and after a while he descended, confirming his friend's observation. After some discussion, the third thief climbed to the roof, and witnessing the pacing of the Luminous Siyyid, descended. So, the three decided to return the next night.

One after the other witnessed the repeat of the same scene. After much discussion, they concluded that the House must be an important spot and the Siyyid had the mission to keep guard there every night. As the thieves knew nothing about the House, they decided to go back during the day and find out about the place and the Young Siyyid. When they knocked on the door, the mother of Áqá Ridá, who was an elderly woman, opened the door. Her bewildered look convinced the thieves that the House must be a special place and not just an ordinary residence.

After gaining composure, one of the thieves asked the woman what kind of a place the house was. The kind and sweet lady realized that these people were totally unaware of the significance of the House. So, in her heart, beseeching help from the Báb, she invited the three inside, stating that she could give them some background information in a few minutes if they had the time. Hesitatingly, they accepted and entered.

The mother of Áqá Ridá paused at this point and with tears in her eyes she continued, saying that she spent more than an hour telling the men about the Báb's declaration and the history of the Faith, focussing especially on the events at Fort Tabarsí. Then she allowed the men to visit inside, particularly to the room in which the Báb had declared His mission.

After the visit all three were profoundly affected, and all declared their belief in the new Cause.

Then with tears flowing down her cheeks, this kindly lady added, "Do you know where these three are now? Yes, all three, remorseful about their past, became devoted believers of the Cause of the Abhá Beauty and a short while later they went pioneering. They have remained steadfastly at their pioneering post in a remote part of the world."

Section B

Dr. Zía Baghdádís Memories<br>(Translated from Arabic)



Dr: Ziá Baglıdádí

## Story of Ayáz

Once 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story which is good for every Bahă'í to know:

Ayáz was a young shepherd who, from childhood, had a burning desire to see the king, Sultán Mahmúd. He was like a lover desirous to see his beloved. One day he heard that the king would be passing by. He hastened to the route where the king would be passing and waited for a glimpse.

As luck would have it, when the king reached the spot where Ayáz was waiting, he noticed the look of adulation, stopped and asked the young shepherd after his health. With sincerity, Ayáz said that the fire of wanting to see his king was burning in his breast. The king was pleased seeing Ayáz's ardour, so he took Ayáz to his palace and entrusted him with a position close the king.

The courtiers and ministers began feeling jealous and were determined to belittle him. One day, the king had a precious jewel in his hand and bade his ministers and generals to shatter it to pieces. None of them stepped forward to carry out what the king wished, as they regarded the jewel as far too precious. The king then asked Ayáz who immediately shattered the jewel as bidden and commented to the king that the others had broke his bidding, but he, Ayáz, had broken the jewel as he regarded the king's command more precious.

The king was of the habit that sometimes he would leave the city for an outing, accompanied by his ministers and generals. On the way back, he would throw a sack of gold and silver coins in the air and watch everyone rushing to pick them up. The king enjoyed this child-
ish reaction of his courtiers and watching their clamour. On one occasion, Ayáz was also present, but he did not move. The courtiers used this as a pretext to neutralize Ayáz's popularity with the king. They presented Ayáz's lack of engagement as a token of pride and vainglory.

The king asked Ayáz about his lack of interest in gold. Ayáz responded, "I would rather have my gaze upon the king which is worth more to me than all the gold."

Most Friday evenings Ayáz would leave the palace and go to the city ruins, where he would unlock the door to a dilapidated hut, spend some time there, and then return. The courtiers tried to make a case of this habit, again in an attempt to discredit Ayáz. They presented the story that Ayáz had gathered together a fortune and hidden it in the hut and visited the hut every week to ensure its safety. They repeated this accusation so many times that the king decided to personally investigate the situation.

So, one time when Ayáz headed for the hut, the king and his companions, stealthily followed Ayáz. After Ayáz entered the hut, the courtiers stood by the door as the king followed Ayáz into the hut. The king saw only a stick of wood in a corner on which an old cloak was hanging and found Ayáz facing it.

Bewildered, the king asked Ayáz for an explanation. Humbly, Ayáz said, "Once a week I pay a visit to my former abode and gaze at my ragged shepherd's cloak-which I wore before being admitted to the palace-so as not to forget that I was a poor simple shepherd and now by the grace of the king I have attained such exaltation. I wish to remain steadfast and a devotee of yours and avoid pride barring me from rendering humble services."

The king was mightily pleased and turning to his courtiers said, "Now you know why I have made Ayáz a confidant of mine."

## Purchase of Land for Access to the Shrine of the Báb

The following is a summary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements about problems faced during the construction of the Shrine of the Báb:

The deputy governor of Haifa (Qá'im-Maqám) exerted vehement opposition toward the construction of the Shrine, holding the view that the structure in the south of Haifa was bewildering and against the rules and stating that because it was far from the city it could proceed only upon the sanction and decree of the Sultán.

The governor (Mutasarif) of 'Akká, though not a believer, was friendly towards us and appointed a threeman team to investigate the matter. The team was comprised of Amín Effendi, a believer, Sálih Effendi, who was associated with us, and a parliamentarian of the 'Akká governorate. They investigated and concluded that there was no cause for concern.

They submitted their findings to the governor of 'Akká who passed it on to deputy governor of Haifa, who rejected the finding. I personally went to the deputy and tried (to win his agreement). He said that he had no personal enmity but was afraid that he might later be questioned (if he agreed). I asked him what harm was perceived. He said we knew. We left his office together. I thought if I accompanied him to his house it might be fruitful. We arrived at his door and I noticed that it was useless. He climbed the first stair, then the second stair and as he was putting his foot on the third stair he just collapsed and died. I called out "Gá‘im-Maqám, Qá'im-Maqám." No use, he was dead.

We proceeded with building the Shrine, but there was no access road. The access was very poor. We wanted
to open another access. As much as we tried to buy the land involved, the owner declined to sell. The enemies of the Faith provoked him. After two months he agreed. Then he reneged. Again he agreed. Again he reneged. A third time he agreed and a third time he reneged. He said we should return to him the trees. We accepted. He asked for a fence between the properties. We accepted and told him we would build the wall. He asked for a mediator. Sádiq Páshá was named and he agreed.

We arranged for a meeting at Sádiq Páshá's house. The owner did not show up. Sádiq Páshá went to fetch him; still he would not come and Sádiq Páshá returned alone. I was extremely sad. That night I did not sleep, did not eat supper and did not even have tea; I did not meet with anyone, sat in darkness and said a prayer of the Báb. Close to dawn I fell asleep. Before noon, Ustád Muhammad 'Alí came and said that the interpreter from the German consul and the consul's nephew were waiting for me. I went to see them. The nephew said that a tract of land belonged to a German woman and we could have as much of it as we wanted. I had been sad and now I was happy.

I went to the land registry and found the documents related to the transaction all ready in the Consul's own handwriting and signed by him with no condition attached. I said that I would have to purchase it. He said that they had come forth to serve, to resolve problems, not for greed and profit. I said a wall had to be built. They went and built the wall, too. With utmost joy and happiness the access road to the Shrine was opened.

I ordered a marble casket with The Greatest Name inlaid in gold from Bombay. When it arrived, I did not wish it to be opened at customs and it was not opened. Later, the investigators came and alleged that a new Mecca had been built.

Were it possible for Násiri'd-Dín Sháh to come and see it all. Due to his evilness, for fifty years the Blessed Remains had no resting place, no land. Now he should come and see.

## Salvation is in Truthfulness

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá, talking about the benefits of truthfulness, related the following story:

A frightened man, set out to escape from the city. He took refuge with a man called Sulaymán who was wont to speak the truth and asked him for assistance to facilitate his escape. Sulaymán placed the man in a large basket and started walking toward the city gate while carrying the man in the basket on his head.

On the way he came across the enemies of the frightened man who blocked his passage and asked Sulaymán if he had seen a man matching the frightened man's description. Sulaymán replied, "Yes indeed. Right now he is in the basket on my head."

The enemies thinking Sulaymán was pulling their leg admonished him that the situation did not call for joking. Sulaymán insisted that he was telling the truth but the man's enemies, not believing Sulaymán, left while the man in the basket trembled in fear and was near death.

After they were safely outside the city, Sulaymán put down the basket and told him that he could get out as the enemies were gone. The man got out and, still trembling, objected to Sulaymán disclosing the secret.

Sulaymán replied: "Salvation is in truthfulness. Had I done differently we would have both been killed."

## Jamíl Effendi

One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá related the story of Jamíl Effendi Al-Jarráh. After the episode of the murder of some enemies at the hands of the friends and the interrogation of Bahá'u'lláh, the authorities wanted to banish Bahá'u'lláh from 'Akká.

Early one morning, Bahá'u'lláh summoned 'Abdu'lBahá and asked him to have a large feast prepared as some government officials were to visit.

That afternoon some notable officials, including Jamíl Effendi Al-Jarráh, were passing by ‘Abdu'l-Bahá’s house and started talking about going to see 'Abbás Effendi ('Abdu'l-Bahá) for dinner. Some favoured the idea and some were not agreeable as no previous plans had been made.

Finally, the majority decided to go and upon arrival they were quite surprised that a huge feast had indeed been prepared. This unanticipated feast made quite an impression on Jamíl Effendi, leading to his embracing the Faith.

## The Prince and the Preacher

One day ‘Abdu'l-Bahá said: "We procured a car so as to facilitate the friends' pilgrimage but often the wheels would sink in the sandy soft soil of the road and we would have to ask people to help pull the car out. We did all that was possible to no avail." He then related the following story:
"There was a man renowned for his sermons and portrayals. A prince heard about this and sent an adequate sum of money and gifts inviting this man to go to the palace and perform. The man went to the palace, taking along a friend.
"When he ascended the pulpit, as he was very illiterate and a charlatan, he started: 'They inflicted upon the Prince of Martyrs (Imám Husayn) what had befallen noone else, no-one else, no-one else. He kept repeating this for half an hour. The prince realized the man knew nothing and was a cheat and a charlatan, so he pulled him down from the pulpit and threw him in jail.
"After a few days his friend went to the prince requesting his pardon and freedom. The prince replied: 'Don't be in a hurry; he'll be freed if not today, tomorrow; if not today, tomorrow; if not today, tomorrow.'"

Then with a smile, the Master added, "the road will be built, because whatever I set My hand to turns out well."

## The Sign of Stupidity

Dr. Baghdádí says that one day 'Abdu’l-Bahá related the following joke:
"A man was reading a book and noted that two signs are given for idiots and stupid persons: one is having a small head, and the other is having a long goat-like beard.
"He looked in the mirror and observed that both signs applied to him. He thought, 'I cannot enlarge my head but I can shorten my beard.'
"So, he held his beard over the flame of a lantern to burn off part of it, but all his beard caught fire and was singed to the end, rendering him beardless.
"Then he wrote in the book's margins: 'By God, the truth of what the book says has been proven."

## Country

One day, while walking in the country, 'Abdu'l-Bahá related for Dr. Baghdádí:
"During the journey from Iran to Baghdád whenever we would reach the country or water, His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh would order that we all get off our rides and make some tea because Bahá'u'lláh loved the country a lot. He would say that the country is the place of the soul; the city, the place of the body."

## Prejudice

'Abdu'l-Bahá, talking about prejudice, said:
"In Adrianopole, the Iranian Consul was a Turk from Tabríz and a very prejudiced man. Mostly, his prejudice was national. For example, if someone asking a question would inquire: 'Do you have something similar to this in Iran?' He would reply; 'We have a hundred thousand of it.' Or, if, for instance they would ask, 'Do you have, in Iran, someone like King 'Abd'ul Azíz?' He would say: 'We have a hundred thousand of him.'
"Then one day, at the Turkish army parade, someone asked the Consul: 'Do you have any army like this?' He said: ‘We have a hundred thousand of it.' They asked; ‘Do you have something as delicious as the rice pudding here?' He replied, 'In Iran we have seas full of rice pudding.'
"One of the Turks asked: 'Do you have such heavy cannons?' He instantly replied; 'We have a hundred thousand of them.'
"The inquirer got very upset and said; 'In this town we have some sex merchants, do you have them too?'
"The Consul immediately, without thinking, said, 'In our city we have a hundred thousand sex merchants.""

## Eastern Clothes

Dr. Baghdádí relates that one day 'Abdu'l-Bahá said:
"When we were in Europe I had advised all the friends to dress in Eastern style but sometimes Tamaddun'ulMulk secretly wore a western hat thinking I was unaware. One day, as it was My habit, I was sitting near the window in My room. When he was leaving (with his hat on) I called out, 'Tamaddun, Tamaddun (civilization, civilization).'
"Often on streets in Paris, the French low lifes made fun of us due to our Eastern clothing habits. One day, addressing them, I pointed to a statue of Christ and told them to observe His clothing. They said the clothing of the statue was made of stone. I told them His real clothes were made of cloth. They replied we do not have a tailor that can make clothes like that. I told them that we had such a tailor and thus we dress like Christ."

## ‘Abdu'l-Bahás Eating Habits


#### Abstract

‘Abdu’l-Bahá ate very little. When companions and pilgrims were around He would serve everyone first and after they finished He would begin. He took small bites and chewed the food thoroughly and He ate so slowly that it is hard to describe. He did not like meat much. He would occasionally have fruit; partaking of a mandarin orange or sweet lemon. Most of the time He would have milk, bread, cheese and vegetables. He particularly liked mint, tarragon and basil. Altogether, He was a small eater. He liked His tea hot. He slept very little, but He had a strong constitution and took long daily walks.


## Dr. Van Dyke

Dr. Zíá Baghdádí has written in his memoirs that one day 'Abdu'l-Baha said:
"Thirty seven years ago I went to Beirut and visited Dr. Van Dyke at the American University. There, I spoke to him about the return of Christ and the signs accompanying its advent.
"Dr. Van Dyke said that according to the Gospel of St. John the signs include the darkening of the sun and that the moon and stars would fall as well as many other signs. I opened one of his books and read what it said about the heavens and their limitlessness.
"Then I asked him about the size of the sun. He said that the sun was one million four hundred thousand times the size of the earth. I asked him about the size of the smallest star in the sky. He replied that it was ten thousand times larger than earth.
"I said, therefore, the falling of a star on this planet is like the falling of the Himalayas on a poppy seed. He said that this was what his ancestors have always believed and that we must follow them. I told him that these things in the Book have other meanings. He was embarrassed."

## Divine Inspiration and Satanic Instigation

Dr. Zíá Baghdádí writes,

"Once we went to the Pilgrim House in the company of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. When we arrived, among the pilgrims there was an American lady. She had married a noted physician and they had a son and daughter.
"When 'Abdu'l-Bahá came face-to-face with this lady, He told Dr. Zíá to ask this lady what secret she was keeping in her heart. The lady responded that she was thinking of an Iranian resident in the United States and that she felt attracted to him, but she was not sure whether that attraction was by the will of God or her own personal inclination. 'Abdu'l-Bahá remarked that any thought that drew one closer to God's Kingdom and oriented one's heart to God, that would be divine inspiration. And similarly a thought which removed one from God's Kingdom and focused one's heart elsewhere, that would be satanic instigation (fancy). This is the mark of divine inspiration."

## Bublúl's Quilt

One day at the behest of the Master, a group of companions including Mírzá ‘Ázíz’u'lláh Varqá and 'Ázíz'u'lláh the tailor, in the company of the beloved Guardian, went to visit the Ridván garden, the Haram-i-Aqdas and Bahjí Mansion, riding in the Master's car.

After the pilgrimage, during which Shoghi Effendi chanted the Tablet of Visitation in a heavenly voice, the group returned to Haifa and attained the presence of the Master. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who was in a joyous mood, related the following story during His usual discourse:

One night Buhlúl heard noises of a melee with cries and screams outside the door of his house. His wife asked him to go and find out what was happening. Buhlúl, who was not dressed for outside, donned his Arab headgear and wrapped himself in a quilt, as the weather was cold.

A group of youth engaged in a brawl suddenly attacked Buhlúl, grabbed his quilt and fled. Buhlúl returned, head bent down. To his wife's query as to what was happening, he said: "Nothing important. The fighting was all about Buhlúl's quilt which they took."

The Sand and the Layer
'Abdu'l-Bahá has related the following story to Dr. Baghdádí:
"Once upon a time a learned man named Sand was traveling with an illiterate person. When they left the city, the learned man asked the other: 'shall I carry you or will you carry me?' The illiterate man was surprised and replied: 'We are both riding; what kind of a question is this?' After a while they arrived at a farm. Sand asked the man: 'Do the farmers eat all that they have planted?' Again, the illiterate man was bewildered. After a while they reached the city gate where they found a dead man being carried away. This time, Sand asked: 'Is this body dead or alive?' The illiterate man got annoyed and replied, ' I am sure you are crazy; how could a dead man be alive?' Then they parted ways.
"When the illiterate man arrived home, his daughter inquired about his trip. The man related the encounter with Sand and his questions. The daughter whose name was Layer, replied happily: 'All these questions were puzzles; I can give you all the answers. When he asked you who will carry whom he meant whether you would keep him entertained by talking or he would have to entertain you. By his second question he was asking whether the farmers consumed their products or sold them. By his third question he meant whether the dead man had a son to keep his name alive? The daughter who had realized the intelligence of Sand, fell in love with him. As she was also renowned in the area for her intelligence they eventually got married. The well-known Arabic proverb that relates the story of the Sand and the Layer, refers to this story."

## Sharing of One's Wealth Willingly

One day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke to the pilgrims on the question of muvását, comparing the Bahá'í teaching with the Bolshevik approach for establishing social equity. He added that Mírzá 'Alí Akbar Nakhjavání had written a book on the Bahá'í teachings regarding solutions to economic problems, including the method of "muvását". The book highlighted the fact that in Bahá'í teachings the sharing of one's wealth is done willingly, with joy and delight, while Bolsheviks wanted to bring about equity by force.

Therefore, the rich should share their wealth willingly in order to avoid being forced to do so. Arabs and Turks turn to communism if they do not attain what they seek. The teaching on "muvását" mentioned in the sacred Writings means sharing of one's wealth willingly, as practiced by the Bahá'ís in Iran.

## Trustworthiness

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story about trustworthiness:
"Someone wanted to go to Mecca. He had some money and jewelry, which he placed in a box and entrusted it to his neighbour. When he returned and asked for the box, the neighbour, who was a merchant, denied even knowing the fellow and stated, 'you did not give me anything to keep.'
"The man complained to the governor and his distress and honest demeanor convinced the governor to pursue the matter. So, he summoned the merchant who once again, in the governor's presence, denied everything and asserted, 'I do not even know this man.'
"The governor asked the man: 'Where did you give the box to him?' The man said, 'under the tree.' The governor instructed the complainant to go and wait under the tree for an hour and then return.
"The merchant said to the governor, 'I am very busy and have to go; I cannot wait here because the tree is far away and this man won't be back for quite some time.'
"The governor replied, 'But you said you knew of no such tree.' Realizing the merchant was lying he ordered that the box and contents be returned to the man forthwith and exacted punishment against the merchant."

## Absolute Certitude

One day ‘Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story for the pilgrims and companions, in connection with qualities of sacrifice and detachment from worldly possessions and wealth:

In the days of the Blessed Beauty in Istanbul, there was a minor merchant of cotton by the name of Muhammad Javád. He desired wealth and besought the Abhá Beauty to make him wealthy. The Blessed Beauty assured him that he would attain his desire.

After a short while the Paris cotton stockpile caught fire and all the cotton there went up in smoke resulting in a sudden, extraordinary increase in cotton prices. Muhammad Javád who had his inventory of cotton intact benefited greatly and his business prospered and gradually he became notable among the wealthy. But he forgot his Master and turned away from Him.

After a while Bahá'u'lláh sent someone to him to remind him that worldly possessions were not worthy of affection but faith and certitude were important. Muhammad Javád replied to Bahá'u'lláh's emissary that the real God is gold, which was in his treasure chest. When the emissary returned to 'Akká and reported the exchange, the Blessed Beauty was saddened and said that God would seize it away from him the same way that it was bestowed upon him. In a short while Muhammad Javád's financial affairs started to deteriorate and he quickly lost all that he had amassed. Then he went to 'Akká and attained the presence of the Blessed Beauty and expressed remorse. The Blessed Beauty forgave him on the condition that he go to Bádkúbih and engage in transcribing tablets
and assisting the friends. Muhammad Javád was thus honoured and stayed at the travelers guest-house in Bádkúbih to the end of his life serving devotedly with absolute certitude and detachment and in apparent poverty, until he passed on to the Abhá Kingdom, faithful to the end.

## Sin

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following joke:
"A Kurdish man had heard Bahá'u'lláh say: 'What sin have We committed that the world has risen against Us?'
"To which the Kurd replied, 'May my life be a sacrifice for Thee, Thou has risen up against all the kings of the world and art still wondering what sin Thou has committed?""

## An Anecdote about 'Abdu'-Bahá

## Dr. Baghdádí has written:

"One day we were in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence along with some companions. 'Abdu'l-Bahá jokingly said: ‘May God come to your aid, may He assist you! You eat, drink, ride automobiles, rest and drink tea one after the other and eat oranges. How can you suffer so much and tolerate all this hardship? May God help you.'"

## The Clever Indebted Farmer

A farmer owed five thousand túmáns. He planted a field of cumin. When the harvest was ready, he loaded his donkey to take it as a gift to the king, hoping that the king would pay off his debt.

As it happens, the king was walking about incognito so that the farmer did not recognize him. The king, seeing the farmer with his loaded donkey, asked him where he was headed. He said, "I'm going to see the king and am hoping that beacause of this gift I am taking for him he will pay off my debt of five thousand túmáns."

The king said; "What if he wouldn't give you even five hundred túmáns?"

The farmer replied: "I'd settle for four hundred."
The king said: "What if he didn't give you four hundred?"

The farmer replied, "I'd be happy with two hundred."
The king said: "And if he wouldn't give that?" The farmer replied, "I'd be glad to have fifty túmáns from the king's hand."

The king again said: "And if he wouldn't give you even that?" At this, the farmer uttered a curse and left.

Following this exchange, the king returned to his palace. When the farmer was given audience, the king asked him the purpose of his visit. The farmer related the story truthfully. The king was pleased with the farmer's truthfulness and courage and gave him more than he owed and granted him leave. The minister was unhappy about the king's extravagance, but the king said that he had rewarded the farmer's intelligence and wisdom. The minister asked for permission to follow the farmer and test his intelligence; if the farmer failed the
test, he would ask for the money back. The king agreed.
The minister went after the farmer and caught up with him in the fields and said to him: "The king would like to ask you three questions; if you do not give the right answer you would have to return the money." The farmer accepted.

The minister said: "First question: Where is the center of the earth?" The farmer replied: "It is where you are standing. If you do not believe me, you can survey and measure it."
"The second question: How many stars are there in the sky?" The farmer replied "Equal to the number of the hair on my donkey's body. You can count them."
"Third question: How does God speak to His servants?"

The farmer said: "I am farther away from God. Please dismount your horse and let me mount it so as to get closer to God; then I can tell you how He speaks with His servants."

The minister got off the horse and the farmer mounted it and galloped away. The minister returned to the king quite tired after riding the farmer's donkey and related the story.

The king laughed so hard he fell off his throne.

## The Fan

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá, smilingly, related the following:
"The weather was very hot and I was fanning His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh. At this time a large wasp entered the room and was flying around His Holy Personage. Vehemently, I killed the wasp and the motion was such that it broke the fan.
"I said, ‘O, you bothersome invader that caused the fan to break!' His Holiness Bahá’u'lláh said happily: ‘You sure did him in!"'

## Catholics' Attitudes

## One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá related:

"In New York, the manager of a restaurant showed affection towards us and his heart was attracted. He would repeatedly request that I go to his restaurant and be his guest. Due to his persistence, I accepted. When I went to the restaurant, I noticed a change in his attitude because the cardinal had gone to him and in a meek, but meddlesome, manner had raised the question with of whether it was right to abandon Jesus, Who was the Son of God with a Divine message, in order to follow an Iranian.
"I left the restaurant and went somewhere else and kept silent. Then I set out for Washington and after proving the truth of Christianity in Jewish gatherings, the priest took advantage of my silence and gentle manner and began offensive activities, distributing insulting papers charging that the destroyer of Christianity was coming should be avoided. In spite of all this, I kept silent and said nothing and did not respond until I went to Denver. There the Cardinal heard the news and followed me. Presumably he had come to Denver to inaugurate a church.
"The day of the inauguration a large gathering was present. I found the opportunity suitable, broke my silence and, addressing the gathering, I said, 'O people, I have come here. I see, here, a religious spectacle. A spectacle that is without peer. This spectacle, this play, of His Holiness the Cardinal in Denver is like the play that His Holiness Christ presented in Jerusalem. There is only a slight difference. In that heavenly Divine Play, Christ had a crown of thorns, but in this play His Holi-
ness the Cardinal has a bejeweled crown. In that play, His Holiness Christ had torn clothing while His Holiness the Cardinal has clothing of silk and gold-laced cloth. In that play, those who accompanied His Holiness Christ were always in trials and tribulations but in this play the Cardinal's companions are in utmost might and pride. In that play, people were all uttering indignities; in this play everyone offers praise and adulation. In that play humility, lowliness, meekness, supplication and imploring were evident; in this play, grandeur, wealth and might. That play was upon the Cross; this one upon apulpit bedecked to the utmost. This is the difference.'
"Truly how people are ignorant. They were relating what a good show it was. I said, 'His Holiness Christ suffered all these afflictions, tribulations, hardships and trials day and night. He was in the fields, alone and without means; His food was the plants in the field and on His head were thorns. His lamp was the stars above. Every day He meandered from field to field. Now, these gentlemen are in the utmost pomp and might, considering themselves apostles of Christ. An apostle should follow the example of the master in a way that all his actions and demeanor coincide with the teaching of his master. But these people have a lot of bequests and possessions and, night and day, are consumed by all manner of lust. Where is that detachment of Christ?'
"After that the Cardinal took his leave and has since abandoned any claim and challenge."

## A Funny Story about Casar

'Abdu'l-Bahá one day related that a comic French paper had printed the following story:

During one of France's wars, which had dragged on for a long time, people realized that the authorities and generals did not seem to be able to end the war. So, they decided to supplicate the Messengers of God, perchance They would bring the hostilities to a close.

First they went to Moses and said, "O Thou who held converse with God! The world is being destroyed. It is time you took the matter in Thy hands." Moses replied, "Count me out; Jewish people are a minority in every land and cannot assume the task."

So, they went to Jesus saying, "Thou art the Son of God. Free the world from this affliction, as Thou has promised." Jesus also declined and said, "I am a youth. If I descend to earth from heaven they will probably draft me into military service."

So, they went to Muhammad saying, "We testify that Thou conquered all the kings by the force of Thy sword. The time has come for Thee to rid the world from this war." Muhammad also declined saying, "The Turks dislike the Arabs, especially the Turkish general Jamál Páshá who has the noose always at the ready."

So they went to God and supplicated, "O God! Thou art the creator of the world; wilt Thou not have mercy upon us and free us from this affliction?" God replied, "True, I am able to descend to earth and free the world from this war, but I am afraid if I descend to earth, Caesar would take advantage of the opportunity and take over My throne."

## Preparing for the Next World

One day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story, in the context of His talk about the need to prepare for the next world:

A young traveler arrived in a new land and found the populace in jubilant excitement. He asked an old man standing beside him the reason for the excitement. The old man told him that in their land it was customary to choose their king every year. "To do so, the royal falcon is released on the appointed day to soar above the multitude that gathers in the city square. When the falcon descends, the person on whose head it descends will be chosen king." The young man felt very fortunate to have arrived on such an auspicious occasion.

The falcon circled over the multitude several times and then suddenly dove down, descending on the young man's head. Cries of jubilation rose up from the crowd and people rushed forth to express their joy and pledge their allegiance. The young man turned to the old man and asked, "What do I do now?" The old man replied, "You are the chosen king; it is your will to do as you please and rule as you wish."

The young king, who was wise and knowledgeable, set to the task with determination and began devising a range of beneficial developmental projects. After six months, when he had built many schools, hospitals, roads and the like, he summoned his friend the old man. After formalities were exchanged, he asked the old man, "Tell me, what will happen after the year is over?"

The old man took the young king to an island which was uninhabited and where no development had occurred.

Without explaining anything to the young king, he wanted to point out that the island was his own future.

The perceptive king set to work the very next day, getting all the necessities for the development of the island together and starting with the task of preparing the island for habitation and the enjoyment of all, thereby guaranteeing his own future as well.

Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá concluded that the servants of the Blessed Beauty should always be mindful of the need to develop their island, which is their soul, for the next world.

## Sazd and the Blind Shaykh


#### Abstract

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s words about the machinations of Mírzá Muhsin Khán, the former Iranian Ambassador in Istanbul:


One day, Mírzá Muhsin Khán invited Shakír Páshá to lunch and throughout the lunch time tried to convince Shakír Páshá that he was friendly toward Bahá'u’lláh. After lunch, Shakír Páshá attained the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and said, "The Ambassador was expressing praises and adulations for all of you throughout lunch. He was probably trying to convince me that he was friendly toward Bahá'u'lláh. Or, perhaps, he was waiting to hear me say that I was friendly toward Him. But I played with him in a manner similar to the following story."

Sa'íd was one of Sultán Mahmúd's confidants. The Sultán was in the habit of issuing edicts of death against a large number of people whenever he was angry or perturbed. At such occasions, his ministers would dispatch Sa'íd to the Sultán in order to try to placate him. One such time when the Sultán was exceedingly vexed, Sa'íd went to his presence, and try as he might, he could not get the king's anger to subside. So, he suggested to the king that they both leave the city in disguise. The king agreed.

Outside the city gates, Sa'íd continued his efforts to calm the king but to no avail. They kept walking until they came to a cemetery. Tired, the king sat on a gravestone to rest a little. Sa'íd still pursued his efforts, unsuccessfully, to placate the king. Sa'íd then suggested
that they walk over to a nearby orchard, perchance the king, being near flowers and greenery, would regain his happy disposition. The king refused.

Wondering what else to try, Sa'íd noticed a blind shaykh standing by a grave and reciting the Gur'an (according to Islamic belief, if a blind person offers prayers and supplications at a grave site, it will attract blessings regardless of whether the grave is the resting place of a man or a woman).

Sa'íd walked over to the blind shaykh and forcefully bumped into him. The shaykh cried out, "What is the matter with you? Are you blind and do not see me standing here?"

Sa'íd shouted back, "You are blind not to see me." The shaykh replied, "Yes, I am blind. How can I see you?" Sa'íd added, "I am blind too, and could not see you."

The shaykh, believing Sa'íd, began to apologize. The king was fascinated to watch this exchange. Sa'íd and the shaykh then continued to have a hearty conversation and Sa'íd said, "O, my brother, I want to share a secret with you. I have saved up 200 gold coins, but I have no expertise in assaying them. First of all, I am afraid that someone would take off with my gold as soon as I turn my face. Secondly, can you tell the difference between pure and fake gold just by feeling the coins?" The shaykh replied, "Yes, let me have the coins, I will examine them."

Sa'íd gave him the purse containing the coins. The shaykh felt the coins, counted them and then suddenly took off with them and hid himself behind a gravestone, thinking Sa'íd, being blind, would not be able to find him.

Sa'íd started shouting, "O, you cruel man. This is my entire worldly possessions that you took off with. Where are you? Are you not afraid of God?" Then, picking up a rock, he said, "O kind Lord, I beseech Thee by Thy might and power to cause this rock to hit this shame-
less blind thief on the head, for he has done me wrong and robbed me of my possession."

The rock hit the mark, but the blind shaykh kept his silence. Sa'íd picked up another rock saying, "O God, cause this rock to hit him on the back." And again the rock hit the shaykh, injuring him. Again the shaykh kept his silence. Sa'íd picked up a third rock saying, "O God, Thou has answered my plea. Now cause this rock to hit the treacherous thief on his heart." The rock hit its mark. The shaykh got up, threw down the purse of gold, and shouted, "Take your gold and leave me alone. I know you are not blind; I swear to God you are not blind."

Watching this scene, the king burst into a laughter and returned to the city in a good mood.

## Conditions of Salvation or the Power of Persuasion

'Abdu'l-Bahá once said that to succeed, one must have good management skills, good intentions and sincerity in carrying out the task as hand. He then related the following story:

Abú Zilámih was a poet, gifted with wisdom and management skills which saved him from certain death on occasion. He was the royal poet in the court of the Caliph. He had composed many eulogies in praise of the Caliph, who rewarded him by enrolling his name in the army books which ensured him a regular monthly income.

In his poetry, he was of the habit of praising himself for such qualities as great strength and courage and assuming such titles as the lion of the jungle, the tiger of the den, the matchless mighty one.

One day the Caliph declared war on a rebel, called the Mighty Khurásání, who was a constant source of trouble to the Caliph's subjects.

After issuing the war edict, the Caliph's general, Nasr-ibn-i-Farah gathered together his army giving instructions that all those whose names appear in the army rolls must participate in facing off with the Mighty Khurásání.

Abú Zilámih sent a reply saying that he was a poet and not a warrior, but the army chief asserted that since Abú Zilámih's name was recorded on the rolls he had to participate. The poet declined. The general told him that he referred to himself as the lion and the tiger, and it would, therefore, be only proper that he participate. The poet remonstrated that those were only poetic expressions.

However, the general insisted that if he did not volunteer, he would be drafted forcefully.

The poet began crying. The general had his hands and legs tied and ordered that he be carried to the battlefield. The poet had to succumb.

The Mighty Khurásání was chief of a tribe that enlisted some twenty strong highway robbers who despoiled people of their possessions and inflicted all manner of tryanny.

When the battle was engaged, the Mighty Khurásání went to the centre of the battlefield, challenging one-onone battle. The general sent in one of his best who presently met his death with a single blow from Khurásání. The same fate followed for the second, third, fourth and fifth. Then the general called on Abú Zilámih to step forth. Abú Zilámih remonstrated that were he to challenge the Khurásání, a similar fate would await him, and broke into crying.

The general called in the executioner, instructing him to behead the poet should he refuse to go and fight the Mighty Khurásání. The poet succumbed and replied that he would go, but he was very hungry and needed to eat first. The general asked him what he wanted. "Bread, kebab and wine and pistachio nuts." The general immediately had all this prepared for the poet, who wrapped the kebab in the bread and placed the sandwich in his pocket. In reply to the general's question as to why he was not eating them, he replied he would eat it in the battlefield, and presently set off.

When the Mighty Khurásání charged toward the poet he cried out, "O mighty warrior, I ask you a question: what would it avail you if you killed off the rest of our army? The Caliph would send in another army and then another. Your life and that of all your cohorts would be in jeopardy." The Mighty Khurásání conceded the possibility. The poet then said, "So, would it not be better for us to sit down here, enjoy the kebab and wine and pistachios,
then gather the highway robbers and all of us go to plead to the Caliph and prevent this bloodshed? The Caliph would most probably pardon you and reward you." Khurásání thought for a while and agreed to the suggestion.

The Caliph was quite surprised about the outcome. The general said, "Abú Zilámih defeated the adversary through the power of his wisdom and negotiating skills; so bloodshed was averted."

The Caliph was very pleased and rewarded the poet handsomely.

## The Nenspaper Editor and Onions

Dr. Zíá Baghdádí had one day invited a newspaper editor for lunch and a visit with 'Abdu'l-Bahá. At the dinner table, the editor asked Dr. Baghdádí about the benefit of onions. Out of respect he did not reply and looked toward 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The Master said that onions were very good provided that there were no delicious dishes such as meat or rice on the table. The editor expressed surprise at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's reply and said, "I have heard that onions thin the blood, help the digestion and increase the appetite, among other benefits."
'Abdu’l-Bahá, smiling, replied, "Very well, we'll invite you another time, will not prepare any food, and will put various kinds of white, red, green and dried onions on the table for you so that you may cleanse your blood, help your digestion and increase your appetite."

## Halva with Pepper

One day, 'Abdu’l-Bahá related the following story:
"In the course of the banishment from Tihrán to Baghdád, an unforgettable event occurred. In Hamadan, as the weather was very cold, Karbilá'í Fadlu'lláh, who was the groom, took us to his own house.
"At night we had no lanterns. I was shivering due to the cold weather. The Blessed Beauty bought me a warm piece of clothing for three rials. But the cold was intolerable.
"One night we were going to have Halwa for dinner. We had a container in which all the implements for tea, such as cups and saucers and the tea pot, were kept. There were also sacks in which things like tea, sugar, salt, pepper and other condiments were kept. That night, in the dark, instead of sugar, pepper was put in the Halwa mix.
"When it was presented, we found it very spicy. But nothing could be done. We ate it and burnt our mouths."

## Electric Light

When electricity was first brought to the Shrine of the Báb, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said:
"Praise be to God that we are all gathered at this Holy Threshold in perfect spirit and fragrance. We ordered electric power for the Holy Precinct and the Shrine of the Exalted One so that they are luminous inside and out. We even ordered a line for the Pilgrim House. This is all the bounty of the Blessed Beauty, may My soul be a sacrifice for His loved ones. All nations and governments of the world showed prejudice and enmity towards us. Yet we are gathered with such spirituality and joy visiting such a Holy Place as if we have no enemy. Electric lights are no comparison to gas and oil lights; they are far superior."

## The Timid Káshi

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story as a joke:

A man from Káshán was a timid man, but claimed courage. Every night he would prop up his rifle under a tree in the yard, tying one end of a long string to the trigger, and the other end to his index finger, waiting in his room for the chance of a jackel or fox to enter the yard so he could easily hunt it without any fear.

As it happens, one night he dreamt that a fox had entered the yard so he pulled the string, discharging the gun. Frightened, he let out a loud scream causing all the inhabitants of the house to wake up in horror and rush to his room, asking him what happened.

He replied: "I killed it, I killed it." They asked him what he had killed and he replied: "The horrible fox." They all ran out to the yard, but saw no fox. Returning, they told him, "Only in your dreams!"

## Marriage Customs

One day 'Abdu’l-Bahá was talking about marriage customs in different cultures and religions and said:

Among Arab nomads it was customary during their wedding ceremony for the groom to stand on a high rock, and the bride to stand on another rock facing him.

The groom would address the bride in a loud voice saying, "I am standing on this rock, thou art standing on that rock, and God is a mighty witness. Verily, thou art my woman, my wife, and I am thy master, thy husband."

Similarly the bride would state these words in a loud voice. Thus they would become a true couple and bethrothed to each other, remaining faithful and devoted to one another.

## Departing Iran for Baghdád

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá was relating some memories of the journey from Iran to Baghdád. He said:
"In Iraq we arrived at a river and set up tent. On the other side, a tribal chief and his wife had set up tent; they were close and his wife was making rice. At this time, an Arab approached their tent and with utmost submission pleaded that they give him some rice. The woman told him to get lost and eat garbage. The Arab left and hid in a corner.
"When the woman was distracted and not near the pot of rice, the hungry Arab came stealthily, took the pot of rice off the fire and escaped rapidly, going to another part of the river, and started to eat the rice. When the woman found the rice missing and saw the Arab eating it, she was very distressed. Then the Arab turned to her and told the woman, 'Now I eat the rice; you eat the garbage.' The Arab spoke half Persian, half Arabic.
"If the woman had given some of the rice to the hungry Arab, the pot of rice would have been safe. After a while when the rice was all finished, the Arab washed the pot in the river and took it with him. The woman kept looking at him, feeling hungry, and cursing him."

## ‘Abdu'l-Bahá’ Dream

## One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said to Dr. Baghdádí:

"Last night I had a bad dream. I dreamt that I was in the country and around me were very large boulders. I was near a water spring and on top of me there was a very heavy quilt. I could not move the quilt, as it was very thick and heavy. Then I saw wild beasts coming close to me, such as a jackal, bear and fox. They were coming close to me to drink water, I tried to get up but I could not. Then in a loud voice I cried out 'Yá Bahá’ul-Abhá' so that the house shook and the bed cover fell off of me and I woke up and felt comfort."

## Aptitude for Learning

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá related the following story in connection with aptitude for learning sciences and gaining knowledge.
"A skilled craftsman made a very small box whose lock was the size of a grain of rice. He could put seven pieces of silver in it, each the size of a poppy seed. He took this box as a gift for the city governor.
"After he arrived at the governor's house, a man of science arrived. The governor turned away from the craftsman and began discussing things with the scientist. The craftsman was hurt; he left the governor's house and decided to study to become a scientist. The few people he approached did not accept him as a student.
"Finally, a shaykh was willing to tutor him, and as the craftsman had a very weak memory he conditioned the tutoring upon teaching him only one sentence a day.
"The first day the tutor gave him this sentence: "The shaykh said: a dog's skin becomes touchable through the tannery process.' He repeated the sentence ten times.

The craftsman went home and began practicing.
"The next day he returned to the shaykh. The master asked him to repeat the lesson of the previous day. He replied: 'The dog said: the shaykh's skin does not become touchable through the tannery process.""

## Hunger

## ‘Abdu’l-Bahá related the following story about hunger:

"A man who had not eaten for quite a while and was so hungry that he was close to death entered a village and noticed that everyone looked sad and perturbed. He asked: 'What is wrong, why are you all sad?' They said, 'Our headman is ill, he is very seriously ill.'
"He said, 'Lucky for you I am a doctor and I have come here.' The village people were exceedingly happy. He said to the village people, 'For now, bring me some bread, butter and honey because I am very hungry.' They brought him these and after eating he said, 'Bring me a quilt so I can sleep.' They did so and he slept.
"While he was asleep the headman passed away. The people came and woke him up asking, 'Why are you asleep? Our headman died." He said, 'What could I do? If you hadn't given me butter, honey and bread I, the doctor, would also have died."

## Trustworthiness and Honesty: The Story of Hájí Sadíq

One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said:
"There was a man named Hájí Sadíq who knew Me for 25 years, but disliked Me and behaved with enmity. Whenever he saw Me, he would turn his face away, or change his route. But he was a pious and honest man.
"As it happened, a man who had two wives and was enormously wealthy, passed away. In his will, he had designated Hájí Sadíq as the executor and trustee of his entire assets. After his passing, severe strain occurred between his widows and Hájí Sadíq, necessitating the involvolment of the city judge.
"One day, by chance, I went to see the judge. I noticed that Hájí Sadíq got up to leave the room in a disagreeable mood, causing the bewilderment of the judge and others present. The judge asked: 'What do you think of Hájí Sadíq?’ I told him: 'Hájí Sadíq is a very pious and honest man; truthful and with integrity.'
"Subsequently, the widows asked My help and involvement. I told them: 'It would be best for Hájí Sadíq to be your advocate and straighten out your affairs; you would not find anyone more honest and truthful than him-even though he bears enmity towards Me. If you do not do so, you would lose a lot and the judge would take away what is yours. But they did not heed My advice and consequently they lost their wealth.""

After a year, Hájí Sadíq married one of the ladies, who related for Hájí all that had transpired telling him: "Aside from 'Abbás Effendi ('Abdu'l-Bahá) you have no other friends as honest as He." Hájí was stunned asking
her: "How can you say that?" His wife replied: "During the arguments, all those who professed friendship with you-such as the Muftí of 'Akká and others-instigated actions against you and only 'Abbás Effendi told us to designate you as our advocate because He found you to be an honest and pious man."

When Hájí heard this, immediately he went to 'Abdu'lBahá, prostrating himself at His feet, and asked forgiveness for the past. Later he became a believer and one of the companions.

## The Devil Philosopher

## ‘Abdu’l-Bahá once said in New York:

"The Iranian Consul, Mr. Tupukián, invited Me to lunch. When I arrived I found among the invited guests a devilish philosopher who seemed bent on irritating Me as soon as I arrived.
"He asked Me, 'Who has created the sun?' I replied calmly, ‘God.’
"He asked 'Who has created the moon?' I replied, 'God.'
"In a ridiculing tone he said, 'The Devil has created small stars.'
"I retorted, 'No, but God has created some people with a devilish nature.' He felt ashamed and kept his silence without uttering another word."

## Youth and Old Age

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá said: "A youth without faith is old; an old man with faith is young. It is faith and certitude that keeps an old man always youthful."

## The Walls of Paradise

One day friends and companions had gathered in 'Akká and were having rice pudding for lunch. 'Abdu'lBahá related the following joke:
"Kurds normally love rice pudding. A Kurd once asked the village shaykh: 'In the Gu'ran frequent mention is made of the figs, olives, grapes, and dates that we can partake of in paradise. Is there rice pudding as well in paradise?'
"The shaykh replied: "Of course; the four walls of paradise are made of rice pudding!"

## Properties around the Holy Precinct

Dr. Baghdádí relates that one day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke about the purchase of a piece of property around the Holy Precinct, saying:
"Jirjís Jamál was a fanatic Protestant and was not prepared to sell the property under any condition. He had an olive grove there. He used to say to people, 'I will baptize 'Abdu'l-Bahá.'
"One day he had found a book about His Holiness Muhammad's Ascent to Heaven (Night Flight) and was reading it. He asked, 'I want to know how Muhammad could ascend to heaven.'
"I replied, 'Using the same ladder that Christ used, Muhammad ascended to heaven.' He was very upset and angry at this reply, as some fifteen of his friends were with him at the time of this exchange.
"As long as he was alive, he did not sell us the land. After his death, they buried him on his property and finally his brother sold us the land. Bahá'ís stipulated the removal of his remains as a condition of the transaction.
"So, his brother opened the grave and removed the remains and buried them in Nazareth. It was due to his refusal to sell the land that God forbade his burial on the property."


Property around the Holy Precinct


The Gate to the Holy Precinct

## Section C

Babái Sources

## Absolute Self-Abnegation

Mírzá Mahmúd Furúghí was a noted Bahá'í in Khurásán and ranked in the forefront of the defenders of the Cause of the Almighty. Nothing perturbed him and he feared nothing, nor hesitated in his service.

After the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá he traveled far to delight his own eyes by beholding the Sign of God on Earth. After he had attained the Guardian's presence for a whole week, he had heard nothing from the beloved Guardian's mouth other than descriptions of institutions of the Faith and how to strengthen them.

Finally, the day arrived when, in the reception room, he found himself seated across from the Guardian. With his impressive and awe-inspiring figure, he was still the picture of devotion and surrender. Placing hands on his knees, he pleaded to the Guardian in a loud and eloquent tone: "Beloved Guardian, during the time of the Master, he often bestowed verbal and written honorifics, but so far your honeyed tongue has not granted any such favours."

The beloved Guardian, with a winning smile and in utmost kindness and affection asked: "For example, what title was granted to you?" Mr. Furúghí replied in his deep voice: "He addressed me as the general of "Aramram Army."

The Guardian responded in utter humility: "I am one of the soldiers of this army. What can I say?" Mr. Furúghí was deeply moved by this heavenly reply; tongue-tied he quietly left the Guardian's presence and on foot went to Mt. Carmel to pay pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Báb. In a remote spot he prostrated and, seeking forgiveness with tears in his eyes, he kept saying: "Please forgive me; I was ignorant, now I know."

## 'Abdu'r-Rahim of Bushríyib

‘Abdu’r-Rahím of Bushrúyih in Khurásán was a fanatical Muslim, deeply annoyed at the people embracing the Bahá'î Faith.

One day he went to the village mullá and asked how he could insure going to heaven. The mullá told him that if he killed one Bahá'í, in the next world he would go directly to heaven. He was in search of an old weak Bahá'í so that by killing him he could end up in heaven. After a while he found his target and early one night he went to the old Bahá'î's house. The Bahá'í fellow warmly invited him in for dinner. He accepted. After dinner and tea, the host took 'Abdu'r-Rahím to the house of the sister of Mullá Husayn of Bushrúyih for discussions. Within a day he embraced the Faith and was so on fire that he decided to go on pilgrimage and departed for 'Akká as soon as permission was granted him.

When he arrived, Bahá'u'lláh was in prison in the fortress and for Bahá'ís gaining entrance was extremely difficult. Outside the gate he first washed his clothing and facing the prison cell he started to pray. Suddenly he noticed a hand from the prison cell was beckoning him. Assured that he had been summoned, he passed by the guards very confidently and entered without any problems and proceeded toward Bahá'u'lláh's room. The Blessed Beauty said, "We caused the guards to be unable to see you" and gave him a number of Tablets to take back to Iran and deliver to their recipients.

It so happened that in Baghdád the police became suspicious toward him. He sensed that if the police found those Tablets on him, they would kill him. So, passing through the narrow lanes, he said a prayer and as he
was passing a shop he tossed the package of Tablets inside the shop.

A few minutes later the police did, in fact, arrest him, but after a short interrogation and searching him, they released him as a foreigner.

On his return, he went by the shop into which he had tossed the Tablets. When it was safe, he approached the shop owner who warmly greeted him with "Alláh'u'Abhá."
'Abdu'r-Rahím realized that of all the shops, he had been guided to toss the Tablets into the single shop whose owner was a Bahá'í. So the Tablets, thus saved, were delivered to their recipients safely when he returned to Iran.

Adib Taherzadeh

## Ustád Ismáál Ubúdíyat

Ustád Ismá‘íl 'Ubúdíyat was a shining example of courage and self-sacrifice and was the recipient of his Beloved's pleasure throughout his life.

After becoming a Bahá'í, he walked on foot all the way to Beirut, in order to attain the presence of 'Abdu'lBahá. There he set out to meet with Muhammad Mustafá Baghdádí who was at that time responsible for arranging pilgims' travels. Mr. Baghdádí asked this forlorn lover whether he had obtained permission to attain the presence of the Master. Instead of replying, Ustád Ismá‘íl asked, "On which side of the sea can the Master be found?" Mr. Baghdádí, knowing nothing of how Ustád Ismá‘íl was forgetful of self, pointed toward the Holy Land saying "far off there."

Ustád Ismá‘íl started to take off his clothes with the idea of swimming the distance to the other side of the sea. Mr. Baghdádí who had not seen such devotion and distraught behavour managed to convince him that permission from the Master was necessary and then immediately wrote 'Abdu'l-Bahá about the situation. Ustád Ismá‘íl waited patiently for permission. He records the story of his pilgrimage thus:
"When I entered the Blessed House I was ushered to a room and was told to wait until the Master arrived. While waiting, in that short time, all the events of my youth paraded before me. I remembered that before embracing the Faith, during a fight, I had broken open the head of a ruffian in Qum and in anger had also roughed up my own sister by throwing her out of the window into the garden. I had climbed many peoples' orchard walls and
committed many other unseemly acts. When remembering these I said to myself: 'With this background it is best not to set my eyes on the beauty of the Beloved; I should return, heading back to my abode.' Suddenly the door opened and I found myself in the warm embrace of my Master."

Ustád Ismá'il had the great honour of carrying the Holy Remains of the Exalted One; once in Gum he carried the Casket to his home and kept it in hiding and a second time, after the completion of the Shrine, when 'Abdu'lBahá had instructed the interment of the Holy Remains in the Shrine, Ustád Ismá‘íl was honoured to carry the Casket to its resting place.

## Nabil in Prison in Egypt

## Excerpted from The Beloved of the World:

When the Blessed Beauty was in Adrianople, He instructed Nabil to go to Egypt to secure the freedom of Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí and six other friends imprisoned in the Egyptian ruler's jail as well as to spread the teachings of the Cause of God. Nabil went to Egypt but as a result of accusations and destructive activities made by the Iranian consul, Nabil ended up in jail. This event coincided with Bahá'u'lláh's transfer from Adrianopole to 'Akká. The location of Nabí's jail was in Alexandria, overlooking the sea.

The Blessed Beauty and the Holy Family travelled with the inadequate travel facilities of the time, until they reached Alexandria where Nabíl was imprisoned. When Nabil was thrown in jail, at first he was very unhappy. He had, as a fellow prisoner a Christian priest named Fáris Al-Khúlí. Nabíl made friends with him and discussed the Faith with him until he was convinced of the return of the Heavenly Father and became a believer.

One day this man went outside the prison cell. Nabil was downcast; he was alone for a few hours and was looking out of the cell window. Suddenly he saw someone pass by the window who looked familiar. Observing closely, he noticed it was Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím, the over-seer. Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím was the man who oversaw Bahá'u'lláh's household expenditures. Nabî was surprised to see him and called out: "Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím, Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím." He noticed and came to the prison window. Nabíl inquired about events. Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím said; "The government has transferred the Blessed

Beauty. They are in the process of changing vessels. I have come with officials to get provisions and take them back to the ship."

This was great news for Nabíl to hear about Bahá'u'lláh being on the ship. The fire of separation engulfed his entire being and he remembered a dream in which the Blessed Beauty had told him that in eighty one days he would experience a very joyous event. The encounter with Áqá Muhammad Ibráhím was exactly eighty one days after his dream. But the prison bars prevented him from attaining the presence of the Blessed Beauty. Yet, the very news of the Abhá Beauty's arrival at Alexandria's docks blew a new life into Nabíl. He got up and started to dance and recite poetry. It was a habit of Nabil's that whenever he was happy or very sad he recited poetry.

Meanwhile, the priest arrived and found Nabíl in a different mood. He asked Nabíl what event had made him so overjoyed. Nabíl embraced his companion and showered him with kisses and had him join in the exuberant dance of joy. The priest kept asking what had transpired. Nabil kept reciting poetry and offering prayers of gratitude. Then he related the story that Bahá'u'lláh and companions were at the docks and on government orders were being sent to 'Akká. Then the two of them went on the roof of the prison and watched the ship from a distance. Nabíl asked the priest what they could do. The priest consoled him and said that although going to the ship and seeing the Blessed Beauty was not possible for them, they should each write a request for this. Perchance an acquaintance might come to visit them in prison and take their pleadings to the ship and deliver them.

They both wrote their requests. The priest's letter was long and written in bombastic Arabic. They waited for the miracle of a visitor coming. As it happens, the priest had a friend, a watch-maker called Constantine, who came to visit him. Nabíl and the priest were very happy. The priest told Constantine; "God has sent you here for a
mission; take these letters, go to the ship and ask for Áqá Ján Khádim'u'lláh and give him these letters." Constantine took the letters and set off on his mission. Nabil and the priest went back to the prison roof to watch.

Constantine arrived at the docks and got into a boat heading for the ship that had anchored off-shore. Suddenly, Nabíl and the priest noticed the ship pulling up its anchor and starting to depart with a piercing whistle. The ship's engine could be heard and the boat could not reach the ship. The priest started to wail and Nabil's joy turned to anguish and he also began to cry. Their gaze was fixed on the departing ship with the boat in pursuit. Suddenly, after a few minutes, as if something was awry, the ship's engine cut off and it stopped. It became apparent that the captain had noticed the boat in pursuit and had stopped the ship. Constantine got to the ship, delivered the letters and conveyed Nabil's servitude.

The letters were taken to the Holy Presence by Mírzá Áqá Ján. At Bahá'u'lláh's bidding, the priest's letter was read aloud. On the spot a tablet was revealed addressed to Nabíl. 'Abdu'l-Bahá added a package containing some handkerchiefs, a few vials of perfume and some dried flowers for Constantine to share with the priest. Upon the completion of his mission, Constantine was exclaiming: "I swear I have seen the Holy Father!"

## Kings Embracing the Faith

Once in a while, the friends from around Khurásán would travel to Mashhad for business or to visit with friends. Among them was Hájí Sháh Khalíl'u'lláh Big Fárání, well-known by Bahá'ís throughout Iran and well respected by the rank and file in his own area. He was one of the world's most blessed men as he was born into an environment of dignity and certitude and nursed in the bosom of the Faith. He was brought up with good health, in grandeur and wealth, and displayed to the fullest praiseworthy character and conduct. In his youth he had attained the presence of the Blessed Beauty accompained by his father. He had also attained the presence of the Master and twice met the beauteous Chosen Branch (the Guardian).

One night, in a gathering, he was reminiscing about his attaining the presence of the Ancient Beauty, relating that one day the Blessed Beauty had told his father He would be visiting them that day. "As indicated, that evening He , along with some companions, descended to our abode showering us with much blessing and joy.
"When the time came to depart, we saw the Blessed Beauty to the door. At the door He bade us not to go farther. I stood spell-bound watching His majestic figure and bearing until He disappeared at the bend in the path. Then I said to myself, in a state of ecstay, what would happen if the kings would recognize the Ancient Beauty and arise to serve His cause and bring fame and glory to the Cause. The next day, when we attained His presence, He turned to me and with a world of sweetness and grace said: (unauthorized translation)
"If the kings were to embrace and rulers and minis-
ters were to enter the cause, how could you find the chance to enter the threshold, attain the presence and have the bounty to be addressed by the Lord of Hosts? Yes, kings will also embrace the Faith and the Cause of God will be magnified even outwardly; but this will be at a time that the meek of the earth will have won the prize in the field of servitude and action.'"

From: Bitter and Sweet Moments
'Aziz'u'lláh Sulaymání

## A Story about the Life of Jináb-i-Háji Mirvá Siyyid Muhammad, Uncle of the Báb

This story is about the time when Jináb-i-Hájí Mírzá Siyyid Muhammad lived in his house near Sháh Chiráq and the New Mosque, and demonstrated the purity of his heart and good motive.

He was of the habit to say the customary prayers and meditions just before retiring to bed and would usually not partake of dinner but save it for morning meal.

One night a burglar entered his house, went to his room and, assuming that the Báb's uncle was asleep, he began to gather various articles. After he was done, before leaving the room, the Báb's uncle, who was awake, addressed the burglar and said to him; "O, brother! You seem to be a poor and needy person; otherwise you would not come here at this time of the night. I will not bother you; do not be afraid. You are probably hungry as well. Our kitchen is at the end of the yard and rice and topping is there. Take some with you to your house and share it with your family in good health. When you leave, slam the door shut and go in peace." The burglar was at first frightened and surprised. He told the uncle to go back to sleep. But then he decided to trust the uncle; went to the kitchen and besides the valuables he took some food as well.

When he got home, he related the story to his wife who was stunned at the uncle's kindness and humanity and severely rebuked her husband for having gone to a Siyyid, a descendant of the Prophet, and stolen his belongings, adding "under these circumstances I am not your wife; either return everything to him and beg his forgiveness or I will return to my father's house and you will not longer see me." The burglar who was himself
ashamed of what he had done, accepted his wife's suggestion and early the next morning took the stolen property back to Mírzá Siyyid Muhammad's house. He noticed the door was closed as he had left it himself. He opened the door, and went inside and found the holy Siyyid performing his ablutions. He related for him the conversation with his wife and begged forgiveness.

The Báb's uncle consoled him, and with great affection said, "My dear son, I feel you are a good and honest man; poverty and need have led you to this unbecoming act. If you stop such unacceptable behaviour I will give you a job and provide for you and your family." The burglar, whose name was Mand 'Alí, was profoundly affected by these words and promised to change his behaviour completely. The Báb's uncle then housed the man and his family in a small house adjacent to his own house, provided them with necessary furnishings and gave Mand 'Alí a job in his own commercial business in Custom's Place in Shíráz.

The fortunate burglar Mand 'Alí became acquainted with the new Cause of God as a result of association with the Holy Uncle and his family, and became a believer. After a while, he even went on a pilgrimage to Mecca in the company of Hájí Buzurg, the young son of the uncle. Most importantly, in this same trip, he attained the presence of the King of Glory, Bahá'u'lláh, and even received a Tablet revealed in his honour through the bounty of the Blessed Beauty and adorned by His seal. In this Tablet, He says, "A soul deprived of all goodly deeds from the beginning that hath no beginning, today it is possible to attain to that station; for the ocean of forgiveness hath surged in creation and the heaven of pardon has been upraised."

[^2]Fírúzih Abrár

## The Bath

During ‘Abdu’l-Bahá's stay in Haifa, clean and appropriate baths were not available in the city, so the friends and companions were desirous to construct a bath for the Master. When Ustád Áqá Bálá, the Caucasian builder, came for pilgrimage, Dr. Yúnis Khán and Hájí Mírzá Haydar 'Alí came up with a plan to ask Ustád Áqá Bálá to beseech 'Abdu'l-Bahá for permission to construct a bath in the Master's residence.

Ustád Áqá Bálá pleaded with the Master and, as he was a sincere believer, his request met with the Master's agreement. Áqá Bálá immediately obtained some materials and began building a bath under the stairs of the outer structure; he wrote to his friends in Beirut to purchase a metal shower with proper fixtures and to dispatch them without delay.

Three days later, just as the construction had begun, when the friends were in His presence, 'Abdu'l-Bahá asked Áqá Bálá, "Ustád, is the bath ready?" Áqá Bálá, in an anxious manner, replied, "No, beloved Master; I am at it and the material from Beriut has not arrived yet." The Master continued, "When will it be ready?"

As Áqá Bálá struggled to provide a reply, 'Abdu'lBahá, with a sweet smile, said, "Our story is like the Arab fellow who did not have a head-gear for three years and went everywhere exposed to the heat and cold, rain and snow with his head not covered. A generous man came along and took pity on him and wanted to get him a turban; so he took him to a cloth merchant and ordered some cloth. As soon as the merchant reached for the cloth bundle to measure and cut the requested material the Arab did not wait and started to wrap the uncut material
around his head. The merchant asked him to wait so he could measure and cut the material. The Arab fellow said, "How long am I to wait? I'll catch a cold."

From Dr. Yúnis Khán's Memories of 9 Years.
Dr. Yúnis Afrúkhtih

## Self-sacrifice

An young Iranian lady, whose parents were devoted pioneers in Stuttgart, was a student there. One day, while disembarking from a street car, both her feet were run over by the wheels of the street car, resulting in the left ankle being broken and the right foot being totally crushed. In the hospital, where Hand of the Cause of God Mr. Mühlschlegel and his wife were present, the team of surgeons decided to amputate the foot.

The Mühlschlegels opposed the decision, insisting on surgical treatment. The surgeons replied that even if someone were to be found prepared to attach to the patient's foot to their own body, in order to feed the the damaged tissue and vessels, the prospects of healing were limited.

To everyone's amazement, Mrs. Mühlschlegel offered to be the host. Thus the patient's foot was attached to the self-sacrificing lady's body for fourteen days while she accepted the suffering with great forbearance and dignity, endangering her own well-being in order to save her fellow human being. Thus, through the sacrificial act of a German Bahá'í woman, the Iranian lady's foot was saved.

Beloved Hand of the Cause, Mr. Furútan, relates: "I went to visit the patient whose foot had been separated from Mrs.Muhlschegal's body and heard the story directly from the patient. Then I hastened to visit that self-sacrificing and kind woman and saw first-hand the qualities of a true Bahá'í and was enchanted by her sincerity and detachment. A few years later I happened to meet that young lady who was now a university graduate, and a married woman, and found out that one toe had been removed but the foot had been saved."

From: The Story of my Heart
Mr. Furútan

## Háji Mubammad Taqi-i-Nayrizí

Hájí Muhammad Taqí-i-Nayrízí was one the wealthy merchants of Nayríz, who embraced the Faith and spent most of his wealth in furthering the interests of the Cause. Eventually he joined the company of believers at Fort Tabarsí. Another one of the company at the Fort was Áqá Siyyid Ja'far.

After the believers left the Fort, Hájí Zayn'ul 'Ábidín Khán, the governor of Nayríz, asked the military commander to surrender to him Hájí Muhammad Taqí and Áqá Siyyid Ja'far, as Hájí Muhammad Taqí had caused most of the costs of the episode of the Fort. The governor stated that he wanted to punish and kill these two in a befitting manner, as he held them responsible for the four hundred lives lost at the engagement; one of them was a divine and thus had misled the victims while the other had led them astray with his wealth.

The commander delivered them to the governor who threw them in jail, put them in chains, and inflicted torture on them.

Meanwhile, famine struck Nayríz. The governor had a silo full of corn. He ordered that every family be given three kilos of corn, provided a representative of each household spat at Hájí Muhammad Taqí and Áqá Siyyid Ja'far. Then the governor ordered that every morning the prison keepers take the two to the houses of people, bastinado them and whip them until the owner of the house would offer some money according to his ability and release them from being whipped. When their feet would be all swollen up and injured, they would be carried back to the prison.

In Hájí Muhammad Taqi's case, the governor had also ordered that every morning he be taken out of his cell and thrown in the large pool in the yard while a few guards surrounded the pool. As soon as Hájí would come up in the pool they would beat him over the head with sticks to the point of bleeding. As a result of these blows, his head was so badly injured that it affected his eyesight and he could no longer see.

This situation lasted for nine months until, one night, the governor's wife had a dream in which several black robed women descended from heaven saying: "Woe betide Zayn'ul ‘Ábidín who treats the descendant of the Prophet in this manner." The wife woke up frightened and awakened the governor, relating for him her dream.

The governor refused to accept this and told his wife that she was just imagining, and that the afflications should continue until the two victims died. However, the wife was not content with the reply; the next day she sent for the reeve of Nayríz and instructed him to take several mules to a certain spot beyond the city gate three hours into the night, and not to disclose the matter to the governor. Then she sent for Siyyid Ja'far's wife, telling her to go outside the gate and wait for Áqá Siyyid Ja'far. Then she sent two porters to the prison in the middle of the night to carry Siyyid Ja'far and Hájí Muhammad Taqí on their backs and take them beyond the city gate, delivering them to the reeve and Siyyid Ja'far's wife.

It had been arranged that the distance between Nayríz and Hirát (approximately one hundred kilometres) be traveled during the night, and the two be delivered to the care of land owners of the area. However, when they arrived at Namúrí village, the village head was profoundly affected by their sad state and kindly decided to look after them. As much as the mule keepers insisted on taking them beyond that point, the headman would not concur and accepted all responsibility for any problems that might occur.

The next morning, the governor, sitting at his desk as usual, asked for Hájí Muhammad Taqí to be brought out of jail and thrown in the pool. When the jail keepers told him about what had transpired, the governor was struck with extreme anger and hostility. He ordered that a horseman follow the prisoners with all speed and capture and return them before they could reach Hirát.

When the horseman reached Namúrí village, the headman gave him a five túmán bribe and told him about the involvement of the governor's wife. Therefore, the horseman returned and told the governor that the victims had passed beyond the borders and reached Hirát.

Meanwhile, the headman immediately dispatched the passengers to Hirát, ordering that they be delivered to the care of land owners and obtain written confirmation of safe arrival.

The land owners exerted the utmost kindness and care, putting at their disposal lodging and servants, all their necessities, and a special physican to treat their injuries. After a few months, when the wounds were healed, the victims wanted to return to Nayriz, but the villagers prevented them from leaving saying that they needed a preacher and religious doctor. Consequently, Áqá Siyyid Ja'far remained in Hirát for five years. Hájí Muhammad Taqí headed out toward Baghdád to attain the presence of the Blessed Abhá Beauty. However, on the way he engaged in teaching the faith resulting in a mob beating him to the point of near-death, throwing his half-dead body outside the city near a brook where he fell asleep.

He dreamt he had attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláheven though he had not met Bahá'u'lláh up to that time. In his dream he threw himself at Bahá'u'lláh's feet, who told him, "We protected you so you could visit Us alive." Hájí responded that he had neither any money nor the energy to move. Bahá'u'lláh told him, "But you have reliance (on God)," to which he responded in the affirmative.

When he woke up, he noticed, to his surprise, a caravan tented nearby, having Karbilá as their destination. Then he saw a man leaving the tent, coming directly toward him, telling him to follow. After he entered the tent, he saw a handsome man addressing him respectfully, saying; "Last night I dreamt of Imám Husayn who pointed you out to me and bid me to have you as my guest all the way to Karbilá." So he gave Hájí a horse and provisions and they all headed out toward Karbilá. The man did not even ask Hájí's name and particulars, and Hájí arrived in Baghdád in utmost comfort and ease. There he separated from his host, telling him; "He who came to your dream came to my dream as well and bid me to go to Baghdád." The host, overcome with great joy, exclaimed that he had been told to offer hospitality all the way to Baghdád and not Karbilá.

So Hájí was able to attain the presence of Báha'u'lláh, realizing he was exactly the personage he had seen in his dream. Bahá'u'lláh showered Hájí with bounties.

## "Sharaq" Story

During those days when the atrocities of the Cov-enant-breakers were in full force and their instigations ceaseless, friends and companions of the Master, though sorely sad and distraught, maintained their composure and seldom spoke out about it and their gatherings often would end with special silent dignity.

One day, Ridá the candy-maker, a wise old man among the captives, suddenly broke the silence and fearlessly pleaded with the Master, "O, beloved Master, we can no longer tolerate all this. How long shall we put up with it? Why does the sea of God's vengeance not surge forth? How far will the Master's patience endure?"

The beloved Master listened to all Ridá had to say with patience and dignity and with that special glance and smile replied: "Yes, the chalice of calamities in the path of the Blessed Beauty must be of many varieties to bestow the complete intoxication. Were they to be all of one kind, perfect intoxication would not follow. At the festive table of God, different drinks must be partaken to attain that perfect intoxication." Such joy and ecstasy eminated from His words that it permeated the very atoms of those in His presence.

Then He added: "Those who drink alcoholic beverages, in order to attain full intoxication, partake of a variety of such drinks: for instance, they have some sharáb (wine), then 'araq (like vodka), then cognac, then whiskey and champagne until they lose all consciousness. So, we also drink of the chalice of calamities in all its varities."

Then suddenly, turning to Dr. Yúnis Khán, he asked; "Is that not so, Jináb-i-khán?" Yúnis Khán, ever ready
with an answer, replied: "Yes, beloved Master, and they drink something else also."
'Abdu'l-Bahá asked what that was. Yúnis Khán replied: "They mix sharáb with "araq and call it sharaq.*"

The beloved Master burst into laughter, His tear-filled eyes looking toward heaven and with His unique smile said: "Yes, as Jináb-i-khán says, We also drink sharaq, we also drink sharaq."

That night for many hours He spoke about the future of the Cause, the exaltation of the friends and the abasement of the Covenant-breakers.

From Dr. Yúnis Khán's Memoirs of 9 Years
*This is a made-up word comprised of parts of the Persian words for wine and vodka.

Dr. Yúnis Afrúkhtih

## A Six Year Toil

A noted physician in 'Akká, who was unfriendly toward the Faith, was once called upon for his services. He rendered the requested care with utmost diligence and two or three times a day visited the patient showing great care.

But the bill for the services that he submitted in the end was so exorbitant and beyond expectation that it surprised 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who stated that enmity reflects in one's face and it is clear that the doctor carried religious hatred. "But in treating the patient he had exhibited such good nature as to surprise me. I said to myself 'I know how unfriendly he is toward the Faith.' When his services were finished and he sent the bill I saw that he had charged ten times the value of his services and I immediately paid it off and am glad that I had known his true nature."

Then, He related the following story:
"There was a shaykh, a student of facial appearances, who left his country, settled in Egypt and studied the science of facial appearances. After six years' toil and hardship, living in a foreign land, he passed his final exams and practicum, obtained the necessary diplomas, and merrily headed back to his country, riding on his donkey.
"On his way, whomever he met he would study carefully as if practicing his discipline. One day he saw a man from a distance in whose face he could trace the signs of stinginess, jealousy, greed and meaness. He said to himself 'What a strange face; I've never seen the like of
it before. I'd better make his acquaintance and try my knowledge and skill.'
"As he was pondering these thoughts the stranger arrived at his side, greeted him warmly and with joy, grabbed hold of the rein of the scientist's donkey and inquired: 'Your eminence, where are you coming from and where are you going?' The shaykh said, 'I am coming from Egypt and am headed for such and such a city.' The stranger said, 'sir, this is a long way away and it is getting late. My abode in near. It is best that you honour us tonight and stay with us.' The shaykh noticed that the stranger's behavior was quite different from his facial appearance and became rather doubtful of his own accomplishments, but accepted the invitation in order to test his own knowledge.
"So, he went to the stranger's house where he was treated with joyful hospitality and was treated to tea, sweets, beverages, water, and pipe smoke, all the while the host insisting that the guest partake of the provisions.
"Each time that the host would offer something else, the shaykh would sigh and quietly tell himself, 'I toiled for six years and studied a science whose falsity is now proven.' And when the dinner table was spread he said to himself, 'What a grave mistake I have made, I did not distinguish between a stingy and generous man.' Hardly finishing his dinner, the shaykh went to bed in a low mood and when he wanted to depart early the next day, the host displayed great eagerness to keep him and in the end managed to convince the shaykh to stay for lunch and did his best to provide for the guest's comfort and pleasure. In short, the shaykh spent three nighs and three days with his host, upon the latter's unremitting insistence.
"Finally, when he decided to leave, the host prepared his donkey, held the rein respectfully until the shaykh
mounted and then submitted a bill to the shaykh. The guest thinking it was a further parting gift asked, 'What is the envelope for?' The host said, 'It is your bill.' The shaykh said, 'What bill?'
"The host, shedding his deceitful mask, wrinkled his brow in a nasty gesture and said, 'For all that you have partaken.'
"The shaykh, startled, opened the envelope and noticed that the bill was a hundred fold of all that he had partaken. The poor shaykh had no such money, so he dismounted his donkey delivering its rein along with pack and travel provisions to the host and started walking away on foot. He kept expressing praise and gratitude to God that his six year toil had been vindicated and his initial impression of the stranger had been correct."

From Dr. Yúnis Khán's Memoirs of 9 Years<br>Dr. Yúnis Afrúkhtih

## Section D

Three Non-Bahá'i Stories on Virtues

## The Talking Parrot-an Old Fable

Among the customs observed by those who intended to go on pilgrimage to Mecca, one was that all family members and all those who knew the prospective pilgrim should bear no hard feelings toward him. As the saying goes, the pilgrim would have to seek forgiveness from all.

Someone decided to go on pilgrimage. A few months before the pilgrimage he began visiting everyone and seeking their forgiveness and blessing. A few days before the trip, on a mild spring morning when he began feeding his parrot, it started talking and said, "My master, if you are going to Mecca you should seek my forgiveness, too."

The pilgrim said, "Very well, I ask your forgiveness." The parrot replied, "How can I forgive you when you have kept me a prisoner in this cage for so long? All the other parrots are free and can fly anywhere they want, but I am stuck in this little cage. If you want my forgiveness you should set me free."

The pilgrim said, "I have paid a lot of money to purchase you; I have not obtained you so that I can set you free."

The parrot said, "This is true. But I'll give you three important pieces of advice that will serve you well on your long journey and that will be more worthy than the money you have spent on buying me. The pilgrim agreed and asked for the three pieces of advice.

The parrot said, "I will give the first piece of advice when you open the cage door and I sit on your arm, the second one when I fly to the branch of the tree and the third one when I take the highest branch."

The pilgrim thought that he needed the parrot's forgiveness in any event-otherwise the pilgrimage would be to no avail. So, he agreed to the terms, opened the cage and placed the parrot on his arm.

The parrot started, "My first advice is that you should never regret the past, because what is done is done; therefore, learn from your mistakes and move on. For instance, you reach a city, decide to buy a hat but you think it is too expensive and can find it cheaper in the next town. Unfortunately, in the next town the prices are much higher. Do not get upset; do not regret not buying it in the first city. The past is the past."

The pilgrim let the parrot fly to the tree branch. The parrot said, "the second advice is: never believe an unreasonable or impossible proposition. Whatever you are told, weigh it out. If it stands to reason accept it and not otherwise. For instance, if someone tells you: on your way to Mecca you'll see a dragon hundreds of meters long waiting in hiding to eat pilgrims to Mecca, or if you are told a king reigns who can move the clouds by a motion of his hand, weigh it by your reasoning power and accept it only if it stands to reason."

Then the parrot flew over to the top branch and when the pilgrim asked for the third piece of advice the parrot said, "The truth is I have sat at your table and received your hospitality; therefore as a token of my appreciation, let me tell your life history. Do you remember where and from whom you bought me? Let me remind you. You bought me from a black slave behind the governor's house. Did you ever consider how a black slave came to have me? The truth is I belonged to the governor's daughter, who loved me very much and I was free to go everywhere and not kept in a cage. In fact, she took me wherever she went and her shoulder was my regular seating place. I ate with her, slept next to her bed and she woke up to my singing.
"One day, no one else was there except her and her handmaiden. She decided to take a swim and, when entering the pool, she took off her 50 carat diamond ring and placed it on the edge of the pool. A bright sun played magic on the diamond, so I began playing with it. Unwittingly, as I pecked at it, I suddenly swallowed it and the lump you see on my throat is on that account. When the hand-maiden saw this she screamed, 'My lady, the parrot swallowed your ring; we must immediately behead it and get your 50 carat ring, otherwise it would be gone.' And then she lunged toward me to catch me.
"Frightened, I flew off, but because I was out of practice I sat on the wall of the governor's mansion, and exhausted, fell into the hands of the black slave. Then you appeared and bought me. I still have the 50 carat diamond in my stomach and am telling you the story out of my loyalty to you."

The pilgrim was stunned and began crying out, "Oh, parrot, you deceived me and cheated me out of a great source of wealth. But now I cannot reach you. What a pity! What a deception! Well, then, tell me the third piece of advice."

The parrot paused and after a while said, "You do not deserve the third one. I just told you the two earlier ones and you ignored them both. I told you never to regret the past. You have released me and I am sitting on the top of this tree and you cannot catch me. So, why do you regret the past and why do you cry and scream? The second piece of advice was not to believe what was obviously implausible, you ignorned that, too. My total weight is the equivalent of 20 to 30 carats, how can I possibly have swallowed a 50 carat diamond? Without any attention to reasoning, you believed me. I made up this whole story to test you. I find you unworthy of the third advice."

Having said that, the parrot flew off towards the woods, leaving the pilgrim full of sorrow and remorse.

## Luqmán-ibn-i-Munzar

Before the advent of Islam, in a part of Arabia, there was a king named Luqmán-ibn-i-Munzar who was a just and fair-minded ruler. But one night he had too much wine and in a drunken state ordered the murder of two of his best ministers. The order was immediately carried out and they were beheaded.

The next morning, when he sobered up and asked for his favorite ministers, he was told that they had been beheaded the night before, by his command. The king was extremely chagrined and depressed, but nothing could be done; what was done was done. As he was fond of these two, he ordered two mausoleums to be erected for them. Every year he observed two days in remembrance of them, one called the day of joy and felicity and the other the day of misery. Every year on these days, the king would sit on a throne placed between the mausoleums. On the day of joy anyone entering the city gates would become the recipient of his favours and receive many gifts from the king himself and return to his home town happy and rewarded. But, on the day of misery, if someone would enter the gate he would be captured and beheaded at the king's behest. This custom was in place for many years without any change.

One day the king and his courtiers went hunting. From a distance he saw a zebra and he set out in hot pursuit and was separated from his companions. Gradually darkness set in and night arrived. Alone and lost, the king was in the middle of nowhere, concerned and without hope. Suddenly, in the distance, he saw a tent and galloped his steed toward it. A poor husband and wife lived there. When he got to the entrance of the
tent he asked in a loud voice, "Will you receive a guest?"
The owner of the tent, Hanzalih, came out and with kindness and grace led Luqmán inside and told his wife: "Judging by the attire of the guest, he would appear to be of nobility; we have but one sheep, butcher it and with flour that I have in my sack we will make a proper meal. By the time the bread is ready, the meat will also be cooked."

That night Luqmán feasted with them and spent the night in their tent. The next morning, at the time of bidding them good-bye, Luqmán introduced himself saying, "I am the king. Last night I deliberately said nothing to see how you would treat your guest and I found out that you are a very sincere and well-meaning person. From now on, any time you need anything come to me and I will try to reciprocate your kindness." Then Luqmán left to join his companions.

Some time passed. The year of famine arrived afflicting the whole country. Hanzalih became destitute and thought; "As the king offered help this is the best time to go to him and ask for help." So, he set off for the city. As it happened, he arrived at the gate on the day of misery.

As usual, the king was seated on his throne placed between the mausoleums. As soon as he saw Hanzalih he was exceedingly chagrined and sad. He said to Hanzalih: "Why did you arrive on this day? Don't you know that on this day if I see the dearest member of my family, my son, I would have to give an edict of death?" Hanzalih replied; "I was not aware of the day of misery and the day of joy. Now that I must be put to death at your command, pray that I be allowed to return to my village, and settle my affairs with my wife, and return the next year on this very day, then your edict can be carried out."

The king was happy, but in order to maintain the integrity of the custom he said; "Fine, but I need a guarantor so that if you fail to return, your guarantor would be killed in your stead."

Hanzalih looked around hopelessly with tears in his eyes, but found no one prepared to be his guarantor. Everyone he turned to refused him. Finally an old man named Murád took pity on Hanzalih and offered to be his guarantor. Joyously, the king ordered a number of camels, money, food, provisions and clothing for Hanzalih and sent him back to his village.

A year later on the same day, the king sat on his throne and ordered that Murád be prepared for execution. The courtiers suggested that they wait till dusk and if Hanzalih did not show up by then, Murád could be beheaded at that time.

When the dusk drew to a close, Murád was brought out to be executed, with hands tied behind his back. Suddenly, from afar, the dust in the air indicated someone approaching. The courtiers suggested that they wait to find out who was coming. When the galloping rider got close they saw it was Hanzalih.

The king said: "You simpleton! I saved your life once, why did you return a second time to die?" Hanzalih said: "O king! I know that I will be killed, but I had promised you to return and therefore I must keep my promise for it is a necessity of faith."

The king and courtiers were very amazed at this reply and the king asked him the reason for such steadfastness in the face of losing one's life, saying: "You endanger your life in order to keep your promise?"

Hanzalih replied: "I am a believer in Christ and one of His teachings is the importance of keeping one's promise. He has taught us to fulfill what we promised to do." The king was interested to know more about the teachings of Christ. So, Hanzalih explained for the king and his courtiers some of the teachings of Christ, emphasizing that these teachings were intended for the well-being, happiness and unity of man.

Hanzalih's words, and the teachings he explained, left such an impression on the king and his courtiers
that all of them on the spot declared their faith in Christ.
The next day, the king ordered the destruction of the set around the mausoleums and discontinued the observance of the day of misery and the day of joy. From that day on, he ruled his realm with perfect justice, love and peace.

## Pure Love

I read this story in a book while I was a youth and it has stayed with me. In the year 1900 a young couple got married in Chicago. They rented a very small house with meagre furnishings and lived there in utmost love and sincerity. Their modest life was full of love and caring for each other. The young man worked in a small factory earning a small income and his wife looked after the household. They had sufficient funds for a simple life, but one full of love. The husband would take a few dollars for his transportation costs and give the rest of his wages to his beloved wife who ran the household with utmost frugality.

A few months before Christmas, the wife began thinking about buying a suitable gift for her husband. With great effort she managed to save two and a half dollars by the day before Christmas. The watch chain she had seen a few days before in a store window cost twelve dollars. The day before Christmas, after her husband had left for work, she went out and in the window of a hair dressing salon she noticed a sign offering money for long human hair. She entered and showed her long shiny hair to the hairdresser who offered twelve dollars for it. Although she loved her hair, she sold it for her husband's sake. The hairdresser cut it and paid her the money. She bought the watch chain and with the money left over she bought herself a nice scarf, some meat, potatoes and coffee for their Christmas dinner and headed home in great joy. She prepared the meal, put on her new scarf and sat down counting the minutes to the arrival of her beloved husband. As her husband knocked at the door, she rushed
to receive him with a big smile and took him directly to the prepared dinner table.

As soon as they sat down, she pulled from her pocket a small box containing the golden watch chain she had bought and said, "My beloved husband, I had seen this chain in a store window some time ago and wished to buy it for you and today I did. Give me your watch so I can put the chain on it."

The husband gave her a sad look and with tears in his eyes he said, "My love, I had seen a beautiful gold hair-pin in a store window, on my way to the factory quite some time ago, and wanted to buy it for you. I started walking to work every day in order to save the bus fare. Today, when I inquired about the price, I discovered it was more than I had saved; so I sold my watch and bought you this beautiful hair-pin for your lovely long hair."

He pulled out the hair-pin from his pocket. The hairpin in his hand and the watch chain in hers, they looked at each other with tears in their eyes full of love. Neither she had the long hair to adorn it with the hair-pin nor he had the watch to put the chain on it. But what both had was a world of love and sincere affection which filled their hearts and warmed their nest with happiness and hope.

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با يكدنيا سرور و خوشحالى به خانه برگَشت و با حاضر كردن شا شام و قهوه و و بستن روسرى به
 را باز كرد و با بشاشت تمام به استقبالش شتافت. او را با به سر ميز شام كه حاضر بود و قهوه كرم هم روى آن بود دعوت كرد.


 را بده كه. بند آنرا عوض كنم.









 اميد و سرور گردانيد.

## NV - عشق پاك

اين حكايت را در ايام جوانى، در كتابى خوانده و در خاطرم ماند مانده است.

 مى كردند. زندگى فقير انه آنها پر از عشق و صميميت بود.


 همسر عزيزش مىداد. زن در نهايت صر فه جوئى خانه را ا ادار همى كر كرد.

زن صورتى مهر بان و چشم هاى پر از شعله عشق داشت. موهاى بسيار بلندى داشت كه تا تا زير


 جيب خود بيرون مى آورد و زمان را را به طرف مى كَتـ. آرزو داشت روزى بتواند بند نقره قشنگى بر ای ساعتش بخر د.

از چند ماه قبل از كريسمس زن در فكر بود كه كادوئى براى كريسمس شوهرش بخر برد. با با زحمت
 بند ساعتى كه چند روز قبل پشت شيشه مغازه خيابان مجاور ديده بود حدود دواز ده دلار قيمت داشت.

روز قبل از كريسمس، چس از آنكه شوهرش به سر كار رفت، به خيابان رفت و جلوى يك سلمانى




 كريسمس گوشت و سيب زمينى و قموه خريد.

 حنظله است .


 وفاى به عهد لاز مه شخص با ايمان است.

پادشاه و درباريان از اين حرف بسيار تعجب كردند. پادشاه سبب وفاى به عهد را ا، ولو به قيمت




پادشاه خواست بيشتر از دستورات مسيح مطلع شود. گفت از تعاليم مسيح براى ما صحبت كن. حنظله هم براى شاه و اطر افيانش از تعاليم حضر ت مسيح بيان بيان كرد و شرح و و بسط داد داد كه اين





آن شب لقمان مهمان آنها بود. در همان چادر هم خوابيد. ولى چون صبح شد، در موقع


 تا جبر ان اين همه محبّت تو را بكنم. سپس لقمان رفت تا همر اهان خود را پیيدا كند.

مدّتى از اين ماجر ا گذشت تا سال قحطى شد. قحطى سختى در مملكت رويداد. حنظله سخت
 شاه كمك بخواهد. پس به طرف شهر حر كت نمود.

از قضاى روزگّار، روز سختى و بدبختى وارد شهر شد. شاه مطابق معمول در تخت بين دو مقبره









 حنظله داد و او ر ر روانه ده خودش نمود.

يكسال گذشت و مجدداً روز سختى آمد. شاه بر تخت نشست و دستور داد مر اد را حاضر كنند تا

 آوردند تا او را بكشند.

قبل از ظهور اسلام در قسمتى از عربستان پادشاهى سلطنت مى كرد به نام لقمان ابن منذر ، كه
 قتل دو تن از وزر راء خود را اكه از بهترين مشاورين او بو بودند داد داد.

فر مان بالافاصله اجر اء شد و هر دو وزير را گردن زدرند ردند. فردا صبح، وقتى به هوش آمد و و سراغ






 روز بدبختى وار د شهر مى شد او را ا اسير مى كرد دند و به فر مان شان شاه كشته مى شد.
اين رسم سالهاى متمادى بر قرار بود و تغييرى نمى كرد.

روزى پادشاه با درباريان خود به شكار رفت. از دور گورخرى را مشاهده نمود و براى شكار
 شب رسيد. شاه سرگر دان و تنها در بيابان بماند و مايوس و و نار احت بود.

ناگًان خيمه ایى از دور بديد و به طرف خيمه اسب بر اند اند. در اين خيمه زن و و شوهر فقيرى




 خوهد شد.
 -ه قير اطى در چينه دان من باقى است. من از وفادارى به شما داستان خودم را كفتم .

 به تو نمى رسد. چچه اشتباهى كر دم. چچه كلاهیى سرم رفت.

پس از مدتى گريه و داد و بيداد گَت حالا مطابق قولى كه داده ایى پند سوم ر ابگو. طوطى





 من تماماً ساختگى و جهت امتحان


قيمت بسى گرانتر است . غصّه به خودت راه نده و غم مخور كه چرا در شهر قبلى ديروز كلاه نخريدم . گذشته، گذشته و ديكر بر نمى گردد.

مسافر طوطى را ا ز مشت خود رها كرد و طوطى بر روى شاخه درختى كوتاه بنشست. كفت








مسافر تقاضا نمود كه پند سوم را بكَيد. طوطى گَفت حقيقت اين است كه من نان و نمك تو ر ا





 من او از خواب بيدار مى شد.







 روى سر ديوار باغ حاكم خسته و مانده به آن طرف ديورار پر تر شدم. در اين حال كا كاكا سياهى از

## 10 ـ ـوطى سخنگو

يكى از ر سوم آن هائى كه به زيارت مكّه مى رفتند آن بود كه بايستى تمام فاميل و اشخاصى كه

 مكّه مى گرفت از ماهها قبل شروع به ديدن فاميل و دوستان مى نـي نمود تا از همه آنها حلا حلالى بطلبد.








 نصيحت بيش از قيمتى كه براى خريد من داده ایى ارزش دار دارد.




 بود. شر ايط را قبول نمود. درب قفس را را باز كرد و طوطى را را روى دست خود قر ار داد.




بخش-د

## سه داستان اخلاقى

شماره NV تا

شيخ ديد رفتار و كفتار ناشناس مخالفت با قيافه او دارد. كمى در مقامات علمى خود ترد درديد




 كريم را از لئيم تميز ندادم. خلاصه شام خور ده و نخور ده با حال افسرده شا شب ر ابسر بر برد.

 روز شيخ به اصر ار ميزبان توقف كرد د.

آخر الامر تصميم رفتن كرفت. ميزبان قاطر را مهيّا نموده و با كمال احتر ام ركاب شيخ ر اترفت







 قيافه اين مرد ديدم در ست و صحيح بود.


## AF - رياضت شش ساله








 فوراً پرداختم و مشعوفم از اين كه او ر اخوب شناختمه.
بعداً حكايت زير را بيان فرمودند:

 امتحانات علمى و عملى خود را داد و تصديقات لازمه را گر آرفت و قاطر خود را را سوار شد و با كمال شعف و سرور به سمت وطن خود رهسيار گرديد.

در بين راه هر كس رامى ريد با با دقت در قيافه اش مطالعه مى كرد و د در مقام تمرين بر مى آمد.

 كاش با او آشنا مىشدم و مر اتب معلومات خود را ا امتحان مى كردم .

در اين خيال بود كه نا كاه مرد ناشناس با قيافه متبسّمّ و بشاش نز نزديك شد. سلام كـر كرد و و زمام

 نزديك . خوب است امشب قدم رنجه فرمائيد و ما را اسر افر از كنيد و و با حضور خود ما ما را را قرين فخر و مباهات فرمائيد.

 بلا بود.

- دكتريونس افروخته.


## ץ^_ حكايت شَرَق


 بيشتر جلسات با آر امش مخصوصى بها پايان مىى سید.

يك بار، پس از چند روز آقا رضاى قنّاد كه يكى از پیيرمردان كار آزموده و از اسرا و مهاجرين بوده،

 چرا اتا اين درجه صبر و تحمّل مىفرمايند؟






بعد فرمودند: در مجلس باده خور ان براى آنكه مستى كامل اخذ كنند و بكلى از خود بـى بـى

 ما هم صهباى بلا را رنگًارنگَ مىنوشيم .

در اين وقت، يكمرتبه صورت را به طرف دكتر يونس خان برگر دردانيده و فرمودند: جناب خان




 شَرَق مى خوريم، شُرق مى خوريما






در خواب حضرت بهاءا اله ر ا زيارت مى كند. ( تا آن تاريخ حضرت بهاءا اله را ز زيارت نكر ده به بود ).







 نشان او شوند و در كمال راحتى به بغد براد مى رير سند.

حاجى در بغداد جدا شده و به مهمماندار خود مى گويد كسى كه به خواب شما آمد به خواب من من


 مى كند و مورد عنايت حضر ت بهاء الله قر ار مى كيرد.

- از خاطرات مالميرى

 مى كند. زن وحشت زده بيدار مىشود و خان را اهم بيدار مى كند و و رؤياى خود ر ا تعريف مى الـى نمايد.

خانباور نمى كند و مى گويد خواب و خيال است و حقيقت ندارد د. بايستى اين ها ها به همين رين





 حدود صد كيلومتر بود شبانه طى كرده هـر هر دو را تحويل خوانين ملاك آنجا بدهند.

 اصر ار مى كنند قبول نمى كند و مى گويد هر خطرى پيش آمد من مسووؤل هستم.


 آنها را دستگير نمايند.

چون سوار به نمورى مى سد كدخداى نمورى پنج تومان به او میىدهد و جر يان فر ار توسّط زن




 معالجه كنند.

## AT ـ حاجى محمّد تقى نيريزى

حاج محمّد تقى نيريزى يكى از تجّار پولدار و ثروتمند نيريز بود كه به ايمان موقّ و مؤيّد گرديد.
 گرديد و به قلعه رفت. يكى ديگر از اصحاب قلعه آقا سيّد جعفر بود.

پس از آن كه اصحاب قلعه را ترك كردند، حاجى زين العابدين خان، حاكم نى ريز، از صاحب

 نحو شايسته و دلخواه مجازات نموده و به قتل برسانم، زير ا خون اين چحهارصد دو نفر بود كه يكى عالم بود و با علمش مردم را گمر اه نمود و ديگرى با با مال و ثروتش افر اد اد ر راز الم راه بدر كرد. صاحب منصب هم هر دورا به حاكم نى ريز تحويل مىدهد و و حا حاكم آن ها را دُحّار حبس و زجر و زنجير نمود.

در همين احوال نيريز دچار قحطى شد. حاكم انبارى پر از ذرّت داشت و امر نمود به خانواده ها
 سيّد جعفر يك تُف بيندازد.

پس از اين واقعه، زين العابدين خان حاكم دستور مىدهد هر روز صبح فراشها اين دو نفر را به خانه اهالى نيريز ببرند و آنقدر چوب و آن ها را از شكنجه و چوب زدن آز آاد كند. وقتى پاها


در باره حاج محمّد تقى حكم كرده بود كه هر روز صبح او را از زندان بيرون آورده و در حوض
 كه حاجى سر از آب بيرون مى آورد، با چوب و تر كه برسر ايشان بزن
 مانده بود.

$$
\text { ا } 1 \text { ـ فداكارى }
$$

يك دختر خانم ايرانى كه والدينش از مهاجرين ناز نين آلمان بودند و او در شهر اشتوتكارت





خانمو آقاى مولشلكً آنان ر ااز اين عمل ممانعت مى نمايند و اصر ار در معالجه می می كنـند.





 مىنمايد پاى دختر از خطر رهائى مى يابد.

جناب فروتن ايادى غزيز امر الله مى فرمايند كه براى عيادت بيمار كه پايش از بند آز آ شا شده بود به بيمار ستان رفتم و اين داستان را راز خاز خود بيمار شنيدم





- جناب فروتن


## -1 ـ داستان حمّام

در آيّمى كه حضرت عبدالبهاء در حيفا تشريف داشتند حمّام نظيف و و خوب در حيفا ديفا نبود و وري
 بسازند تا اين كه استاد آقا بالاى معمار قفقازى مشّرف شد.





آقا بالا معمار فور ا مصالحى آماده كرده و در زير پله هاى بيرونى مشغول بنّائى گرديد. مكتوبى

 مرتبه حضر ت عبدالبهاء فرمودند: جناب استاب استاد آقا بالا حمام تمام تمام شد؟ استا
 مى شود؟

استاد آقا بالا نمىدانست چهه جواب بدهد كه ناگَان حضرت عبدالبهاء با تبسّمّ فر مودند حكايت




 عرب گفت تا كى صبر كنم سرم مى چاد و سرما مى خورم.

- دكتر يونس افروخته


 اداره كنى.

دزد كه اسمش "ماند على" بود بسيار تحت تاثير اين بيانات واقع مى شود و قول مى دهد كـد كه

 تجارتى خود در سر ای گمر ك شير از به كار مى گمارد.

ماند على، دزدٍ خوش طالع، در اثر معاشر ت با خالوى مقدّس و ساير افر اد فاميل ايشان بامر بامر بديع


 فضل جمالقدم جل" جلاله به افتخارش نازل مى شود كه مزيّن به مهر مبارك "بهِاء الشه " بوده است

اينجاست كه مصداق بيان مبارك حضرت بهاءا الله تحقُق مى يابد كه "اكرَ نفسى از او اول لا اول از جميع اعمال حسنه محروم مانده باشد اليوم تدارك آن ممكن است، چپ امكان ظاهر و آسمان بخشش مرتفع ". - فيروز ابرار

V9 ـ داستانى از حيات خال اكبر جناب حاج ميرزا سيّد محّمد

اين داستان مر بوط به زمانى است كه جناب حاج ميرزا سيّد محّمد خال اكبر در شيراز در در منزل شخصى خود، كه نزديكى به شاه چراغ و مسجد نو نو واقع شده، ساكن بودند ساده و نيّت خير ايشان ميباشد.

 شام خودر ابر ای صبج روز بعد مى گذذاشتند.

شبى از شبها دزدى به خانه و اطاق ايشان وارود و به گمان اين كه جناب خال خوابيده اند




 ببند و به سلامت برو.

دزد اوّل وحشت كرده و متعجّب مى شود و مى گويد: سيّد بخواب و و حرف نزن ! ولى بعد بـد به ايشان اعتماد مى كند و طبق دستور شان به آشيزخانه رفته و به همر اه اشياء قيمتى، خور اكـ ر را نيز با خودش مى برد.

وقتى به خانه مى رسد جريان ما وقَعَ را براى زنش تعريف مى كند. همسر او از رأفت قلب و و




دزد كه خودش هم از جوانمردى جناب خال شر منده شده بود حرف زنش ر را ا قبول كرده و و صبح زود اسبابها را به منزل حاج
 در حال وضو گرفتن مى بيند. جلو رفته و جريان صحبت هانى زين رنش را را كفته حلاليت مى طلبد.

## VA

گاهى بعضى از دوستان اطراف خر اسان براى تجارت يا زيار ت احباب به مشهمد مى آمدند. از جمله آن نفوس جناب حاج خلي هم در وطن خويش نزد كل اهالى احترام داشت.



 آمده بود.

شبى در مجلسى از آيّام تشرف خود به حضور جمالقدم سخن مى گفت كه يكى بار جمال مبارى



 تاج وهّاج ايشان دوخته بودم تا وقتى كه در خم كوپپ انه از نظر غايب شدند.

آنگاه والهانه به خود گَتتم چه مى شد اگر سلاطين عالم جمالقدم را مى شناختند و به خدمت قيام مى كردند تا امروز احبّايش عزّت مى يانتِ يانتند.



 شد، امّا وقتى كه ضعفاى ارض گوى سبقت ر ا از ميدان ربوده باشند.

- عزيز الهَ سليمانى

نامه توسط ميرزا آقا جان به حضور مبارك تقديم شد. امر فرمودند نامه كشيش را به صداى بلند

 كه مقدارى همم به نبيل و كشيش بده وهد ـ ـ كنستانتين پس از اتمام ماموريت مر اجعت نمود و فرياد مى زد به خدا پدر مسيح را اديدم .

- از كتاب محبوب عالم

از جا برخواست و به رقص و شعر كفتن شروع كرد. چون يكى از عادات و اخلاق نبيل اين بود











هردونامه نوشتند. نامه كشيش خيلى مفصّل وبه عربى دارجه بود. منتظر شدند شايد ديد معجزه


 جان خادم را بكير و ونامه ها را ابه او بده.




 غم تبديل شد و به گريه افتاد. هر دو چشم به كشـي حركت بود.


 عبوديت نبيل اعظم را هم ابلاغ كرد.



 ادرنه به طرف عكاُ و محل اين حبس در اسكندريه مشرف به دريا اير ابود.


 دوست شد و مذاكر ات امرى كرد تا وى بهطممور پ夫ر آسمانى و ر رجعت مسيح مؤمن شد.

روزى كشيش براى انجام كارى كه داشت بيرون رفت. نبيل دلش گرفته بود و چند ساعتى تنهيا

 كه در ادر نه ناظر خرج جمال مبارك بود، يعنى مخارج زير نظر وي ادير اداره مى شد.

نبيل از ديدن او تعجب كرد و او راصدا زد: آقا محّمدابر اهيم، آقا محّمدابر اهيم. آقا محّمد






 شود. ولى با همين خبر ورود جمال اقدس ابهى بهاسكله اسكه اسكندريه، روح جديدى در نبيل پيدا

استاد اسمعيل دو دفعه افتخار حمل صندوق عرش حضرت اعلى را داشته، يكى بار در شهر قُم كه صندوق را به دوش گرفته و به منزل برده و نگاهدارى نموده و دفعه ثانى موقعى بود كه
 در مقام اعلى مستقّر شود. استاد اسمعيل صندوق را حمل و به محل مخصوص رسانيد.


استاد اسمعيل عبوديّت از قهر مانان ميدان شهادت و شجاعت بود و از بدايت زندكانى تا آخر

 بغدادى، كه در آن موقع مامور اعزام مسافرين بود، رفت.

آقا محمّد مصطفى از اين عاشق شيدا مى پر سد كه آيا اجازه تشرف به محضر انـ انور را دا دارد يا خير.


 عبدالبهاء در آنجا تشريف دارند.

استاد اسمعيل شروع به كندن لباس خود مى كند تا به خيال خود شنا كنان به آن طرف ساح آل


 تشَرفش را بعداً چنين تعريف مى كند:





 در آغوش مهر و محبُت مولايم يافتم .

## _ Va





او در فكر و جستجو بود كه يك پپير مرد ضعيفى كه بهائى باشد پیيدا كند تا با كشتن او به بهشت



 تصميم به زيارت ترفت.

پس از كسب اجازه عازم عكا گرديد ـ وقتى وارد شد كه حضر ت بهاء اءالهَ در قلعه عكا ز زندانى بودند




 حضرت بهاءااله چحند عدد لوح بها او عنايت فرمودند كه در اير ان به صاحبان انـان الواح بر ساند.

از قضا در بغداد پليس به او ظنين شد و او متوّجه بود كه ممكن است پليس او ر ا دستگير






 رسيد و در مر اجعت به اير ان به صاحبان آنها تحويل داد اديا
_ اديب طاهرزاده

## فناى محض VF




 جز شرح و بسط تحكيم اساس تشكيلات امريّه كلامى نشنيد .

بالاخره روزى رسيد كه در اطاق پذيرائى، روبروى حضر ت ولى امر الهَ جالس گر ديد و و با اندام




 بنده خطاب فرمودند سردار جيش عَرْمَ م.



 نمىدانستم حالا شناختم.

- جناب فيضى

بخش ج

داستانهاى اقتباسى از كتب امرى چاپ شده

NY KY K


## ممين هاى روضه مبار كه

دكتر ضياء بغدادى حكايت مى كند كه روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء راجع به خريد قسمتى از از




 از همان استفاده كرد.

خيلى از اين جواب نار احت و عصبانى شد زير ا درموقع اين سؤال و جواب با إنز انزه نفر از ر از

 جسدجرجيس جمال را از آن زمين ببرند و بر ادر ش ان مج ناصره برده و دفن كند. اين از عدم فروش زمين بود كـن كه خداوند

روزى احباء و مجاورين و مسا فرين در عكا جمع بودند و ناهار جهت غـر غذا فـا فرنى داشتند.



 چهار ديوار بهشت از فرنى در ست شده است.

## جوان و پی - WI

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء فرمودند: جوان بدون ايمان پيراست و پير با ايمان جوان است. ايمان و
ايقان است كه پیر را هميشه جوان نگهمىدارد.

## V.

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء در نيويور ك فر مودند: قنسول ايران آقاى تويو كيان مر ابه ناهار دعوت نمود. وقتى به منزل ايشان وارد شدم ديدم فيلسوف شيطان اني




 شيطان خلق كرده است. او ساكت شده خجالت كشيد و ديگر حرفى نزد.

## 99ـ صداقت و امانت - داستان حاجى صديق


 و يا فوراً راهش راعوض مى كرد ولى شخص با ايمان و د در ستى بود.

از قضا مر دى دو زن داشت و ثروت بسيار زيادى همم داشت. در وصيت نامهٔ خود حاجى ود صديق
 شديدى بين ورّاث وحاجى صديق افتاد و كار به قاضى شهر كشيد.







 بالنتيجه پول آنها از بين رفت .

 با تعجب سؤال مى كند چططور تو اين حرف را مى گوئى؟

 وكيل كنيم زير اتو انسان در ست و آدم متديّنى مى ابـاشىى.

حاجى وقتى اين مطلب را شنيد فوراً نز د حضرت عبدالبهاء رفت و خودش ر ر ر روى پاهاى مبارى انداخت و عذر كذشته راخواست و طلب عفو نمود و بعداً ايمان آورد و جز ئيكى از اصحاب شد

## 4^ـ گرسنگى

حضر ت عبدالبهاء راجع به گرسنگى حكايت زير را بيان فرمودند:

شخصى مدّتى غذا نخور ده بود و كر سنه و در حال موت وارد دهى شد شد ديد كهـ هم همه افر اد






 حالا مرده بودم.

## 9V ـ استعداد فراگرفتن علم

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء راجع به استعداد فراگرفتن علم و دانش حكايت زير را بيان فرمودند:

صنعتگر بسيار ماهرى جعبه بسيار كوپكى ساخت كه قفل آن بهاندازه يكدانه برنج بود و و در داخل آن مىتوانست هفت قطعه نقره كه هر كدام صندوق را باعنوان تحفه براى حاكم شهر برد.



 ضعيفى داشت شرط تدريس را آن گذاشت كه فقط روزى يكى جمله به او ياد بدهد.

 درس ديروز را از او سؤال كرد و او جوا جواب داد: ( سگَ گفت پوست شيخ با دباغى پاك نمى شود).

## 94 ـ رؤياى حضرت عبدالبهاء

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء به دكتر ضياء فر مودند ديشب خواب بدى ديدم. در خواب ديدم كه در




 لرزه افتاد و لحاف از روى من رد شد و بيدار شدم و راحت گرديدم

9ه ـ خاطرات سفر از ايران به بغداد

روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء از خاطرات سفر اير ان به بغداد بياناتى مىفرمودند:


 كوفت بخور.

 نهر رفت و مشغول خوردن پلو شد .


 عر ب گر سنه مى داد ديگ پلو حفظ مى ششد.

پس از مدتى كه عرب تمام پلو ر اخورد ديگ را اهم در رودخانه شست و همر اه خودش برد و


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روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء راجع به مر اسم ازدواج ملت ها و مذاهب مختلفه بياناتى مى فرمودند. از آن جمله فرمودند:

در عروسى عر ب هاى باديه نشين رسم بر اين بوده كه داماد بر روى سنى سنگى بلند مى ايستاده و و در


 به همين طريق، زن هم عين همين جملات را با باصداى بلند تكا تكر ار مى كـر ده هو و اين زن ون و مرد زوج حقيقى مى شدند و نسبت به هم فداكار و با وفا باقى مى مانديندند.
4. ـ كاشى ترسو

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء بر حسب حكايت و مزاح قصّه زير را تعريف فرمودند:

شخصى از اهالى كاشان كه ترسو بود و ادعاى شجاعت مى كرد، هر شب تفنگگ باروتى خود را زير درخت حياط قر ار داده و نخى به ماشه تفنگگ مى بست و آن سر نخ ر را به داخل
 به داخل حياط بيايد با خيال راحت وبدون ترس آن را شكار كند.

از قضا شبى در خواب ديد كه روباهى وارد حياط شده. نخ را كشيد و تفنگ به كار افتاد. از

 بدجنس را. حاضرين بيرون دويدند و روباهى نديدند و برگشتند و به او گفتنند در خوراب رو روبا روباه را كُشتى؟

## 4Y ـ چر اغهاى كهر بائيه

وقتى بر ای اولين دفعه چراغ برق در مقام اعلى كشيده شد حضرت عبدالبهاء فرمودند:

الحمدالله در چنين آستان مقدّس جمع هستيم و به نهايت روح و ريحان مى باشيم. به جهت



 است كه هيج دشمنى نداريم. .امّا چر اغهاى كهر دانى خيلى بهتر هستند.

## 19 ـ حلوا و فلفل

روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء فرمودند:

در قضيه انتقال و نفى از طهر ان به بغداد پيشّآمدى اتفاق افتاد كه فر اموش زشدنىاست.

در همدان چون هوا خيلى سرد بود كر بلائى فضل الله كه مكّارى ما بود ما را به منزل خودش برد.

شبهها چراغ نداشتيم و من از سرما مى لرزيدم . جمالمبارك يك قطعه بَرَك براى من به مبـ مبلغ سه







## 

دكتر ضياء روزى يكى از مدير ان روز نامه را جهت ناهار و و ملاقات با حضر ت عبدالبهاء دياء دعوت

 مى فر مايند پياز خيلى خوب است به شرطى كه از اين غذاهاهى لذيذى كه روى روى اين سفره مانند پيلو و كوشت هست موجود نباشد.

مدير روزنامه مى گويد عجيب است . من شنيده ام كه پياز خون را ر رقيق مى كند و غذا ر ا هضم مىنمايد و اشتها رازياد مى كند و چندين خواص ديَ ديگر هم دارد.




افسر ارتش يكى از جنكِجويان خودش را به وسط ميدان مى فر ستد ولى به محض آن كه نـ نزديك
 حههار مين و پنجمين نفر كشته میش شوند.

آن وقت فرمانده أرتش به ابوذلاله فر مان مىدهد كه به وسط ميدان برود و فورى حر كت كند.





افسر فوراً همه چییز را جهة او حاضر مى كند. ابوذلاله نان و كباب را مى پیچچد و در جيب خود

 جنگى خواهم خور د. فوراً به طرف ميدان جنـگ حر جر كت مى كند.



 بود و آيا اين بيست نفر همدستان تو كشته نخواهند شد؟

پیلوان گفت ممكن است چحنين شود. شاعر گفت بهتر نيست كه در همين جا بنشينيم و اين نان و كباب و شر اب را با پسته بخور يم و و با هم صحبت كني
 خواهد داد.

پِهلوان خر اسانى پس از كمى تفكّر قبول مى كند و پس از اتمام غذا به دربار خليفه مى روند و

 دادو رِهلوان و شاعر مورد عنايت خليفه قر ار كرفتندي

- 09 ـ شروط نجات ـ قدرت تدبير

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء فرمودند شرط موفقيت سه چیيز است: مديريت و خوب اداره كردن، حسن نيّت و خلوص در كار. بعد، حكايت زير را تعريف فرمودند.

 در دفتر ارتش ثبت نمود كه صاحب مقر رّى ماهيانه بشود.

يكى از عادات او اين بود كه در اشعارش بيش از اندازه از خودش هم تعريف مى كرد مثلاً مى كَت من شير جنگل هسته، يا من پهلوانى بی نظيرم.

روزى خليفه عليه پهلوان خر اسان اعلان جنگى كرد، زير ا اين پهلوان با افراد خود مز مز احم رعايا

 جنتى با پِهلوان خر اسانى بشود.

ابو ذلاله پيغام داد من شاعرم نه جنگَجو. ولى فرمانده ارتش متذكر شد كه اسم تو در دفاتر


 به زور خواهيم برد.

شاعر به گريه افتاد ولى افسر دست و پاى او ر ابست كه اورا به زور ببرد. شاعر ناحار قبول كرد كه به جنگ برود و به طرف محل تهلوان خر خر اسانى حر كت نمودند.

اين پهلوان خر اسانى رئيس قبيله الى بود كه بيست نفر مرد قوى راهزن داشت و وا و آنها اموال مردم
 ميدان ظاهر شد و تقاضاى جنگگ تن به تن كرد.

در اين حال، سعيد به سوى شيخ كور روان مى شود و وقتى به او مى سر سد ضربه أى با با دست بهاو



 سلطان شاهد اين جريانات بوده و به كَفتگوى آن ها كوش مى دا داده است.


 وطلاهاى مر ا بربايد. آيا تو مى توانى فرق طلاى خالص الص و غير خالص را را با لمس دست بفهمىى؟


 است نمىتواند او را پیيدا كند.

سعيد هم شروع به داد زدن مى كند و مى گويد ایى ظالم، اين تمام هستى من بوده كه تو رُ رُبودى.






 بزن. سنگ را رارتاب مى كند و سنگً به قلب شيخ مى ارخورد.




## ه人 ـ سعيد و شيخ كور

بيانات حضر ع عبدالبهاء راجع به اعمال ميرز ا محسن خان سفير سابق اير ان در اسلامبول:

روزى ميرزا محسن خان ، شاكر پاشا را بر ایى ناهار دعوت مى كند ودر تماممدّت صرف غذا


پس از صرف ناهار، شاكر پاشا به حضور حضرت عبدالبهاء مشرف می شود و مى گويد كه سفير

 اقر ار بكيرد كه من هم محّب هستم . ولى من با با و بازى كردم مثل باز بازى سعيد با شيخ كور.







 به گَفتن حكايت و دلدارى دادن شاه گرديد ولى نتيجه ایى نداشت .






## توشه أخرى - AV

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء در بارهُ لزوم اندوختن توشه اُخرى داستان ذيل را بيان فرمودند:

جوانى سياح به سرزمينى تازه وارد شد و جمعيت را در همهمهه و هيجان ديد. از پيرمردى كه كه
 پֶادشاهى انتخاب مى كنند. طريقهُ انتخاب آن است كه در در روز معيّن شاهينى را را در هوا رهـ رها



جوان، بسيار از بخت خود مسرور شد كه در ست در چخنين روزى شاهد وقوع چشن








 سكنه بُرد و بدون توضيح خواست به پا پادشاه جوان بفهماند كه اين آينده اوست و و در اختيار اوست كه با آن چه كند

پادشاه تيز هوش از روز بعد به جمع آورى وسايل لازم براى توسعه و عمر ان جزيره همّت گماشي

 فكر بهبود جزيره عاقبت باشند كه همانا روح ما و زندگى أخرى أخرى است.

هS ـ حكايت فكاهى راجع به قيصر روم

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء فر مودند كه يكى از روزنامه هاى فكاهى فر انسه اين حكايت را در روزنامه چاپ كرد:

در يكى از جنگَ هاى فرانسه كه بيش از اندازه طول كشيده بود مردم ديدند كه بزر رًان و



 را انجام بدهند.

بعداً نزد حضرت عيسى رفتند و گفتند تو پسر خدائى. همان طورى كه قبلاً وعده داده بودى بيا اين عالم را از جنگَ خلاص كن. او همم معذرت خواست و گَفت من در سن جوانى هستم و اگر


پس ، نزد حضرت محمّد رفتندو گفتند ما شهادت مى دهيم كه تو با شمشيرت بهتم المام

 جمال پاشا كه هميشه طناب دارش آويزان و آماده كار است.

سر انجام نزد خدا رفتند و گفتند تو خداى عالم هستى و خالق كل بشر. آيا نمى خواهى به ما

 قيصر برود بالا و جاى مر ا بگيرد.





 در جميع شهوات مى باشند.

كجاست آن انقطاع حضرت مسيح. پس از آن كاردينال مرخص شد و ترك ادعّا و دعوى تا امروز نموده است.
1- دِنور يكى از شُهر هاى امريكا است

## هD - روش و سلوك كاتوليكها

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء فرمودند در نيويورك كمدير يكى از ر رستوران هاى نيويويور ك نسبت بـي به ما ما


 حضرت مسيح را كه پسر خدا بوده و ندايش آسمانى است جار آيأيز است است كه رها كنيم و دنبال يكى شخص ايرانى برويم؟


 آميز پخش كردند كه خر اب كننده دين مسيح مى آيد، از او بر حذر باشيد.


 و سكوت را شكسته و خطاب به آن جمع كفتم :

حضرات اينجا آمدم. از قر ار مسموع نمايش دينى عظيمى در اين جا واقعشده است. يكى







 آن نمايش بر روى صليب بود و اين نمايش بر روى محر اب، در نهايت تزئين. فرق همين دون قدر بود بود.
Af -
روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء جهت مسافرين با تبسّم حكايت فرمودندكه :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { حضر ت بهاءا الهه مشعوفاً فرمودند پدرش ر را سوزاندى. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## r




 دارم شاه قرض مرا بدهد. شاه گفت چپه قدر قرض داری؟

 آنر ا هم نداد چه می كنى؟ هستم . شاه گفت اگر آنرا هم ندهد چه میى كنى؟ آنوقت زارع يك فحش بدى داد و و دور شد.


 كرد.



 پول ها راپ بار بدهى. زارع قبول كرد. وزير گفت :

سؤال اوّل : وسط زمين كجاست ؟ زارع جواب داد وسط زمين آن جائى است كه تو ايستاده ایى.





 داستان راعيناً حكايت كرد و شاه آنقدر خنديد كه از تخت به زمين التا افتاد.

## dr ـ لطيفه ای از حضرت عبدالبههاء

دكتر بغدادى مى گويد: روزى در خدمت حضرت عبدالبهاء با عدّه ایى از مجاورين به زيارت مى رفتيم. حضر ت عبدالبهاء به عنوان مز اح فـر فرمودند خداوند
 مرتباً چاى مىنوشيد و پرتقال ميل مى كنيد. چطور اين همه سختى را را تحمّل مى كنيد و این مشكلات راطاقت مىآوريد. خداوند به شما مساعدت نمايد.

اه ـ گَناه

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء بر حسب مزاح فرمودند:

 بازهم مى فرمائيد كه ما چه كرده ايم و كَناهمان چییست؟
-ه ـ ايقان كامل

> روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء براى زائرين و مجاورين بيانانى راجع بها به قدرت فدر فداكارى و ايمان اشخاص در مقابل ثروت و مال و منال دنيا حكايت زير را اتعريف فرمونين ريند

در زمان جمال مبار ك در اسلامبول تاجر كوچكى، به نام محّمد جواد، به تجار ت پنبه مشنول بود



 كارش بالا گرفت و كم كم از كبار اغنياء گرديد. ولى مولاى خودش را فر فراموش كرد و از همه روگردانيد.

پس از مدّتى حضرت بههاءالهَ يكى از احبّاء را انزد او فر ستادند كه او را متذكّر سازد كه مال دنيا
 گَفت خداى حقيقى طلا است كه دراين صندوق من است.

وقتى فرستاده حضرت بهاءا الله به عكا مر اجعت نمود و جريانرا ا به عرض مبار ك ر رسانيد جمال


 توبه نمود. جمال مبار ك او راعفو فر اعرمودند، به شر ط آنكه به شهر باد بادكوبه برود و و به به شغل كتابت الواح و كمك به يار ان مفتخر باشد.
 طبع و فقر ظاهرى و ايقان كامل به خدمت مشنول و در نهايت ونايت وفادارى به ملكوت ابرىى صعود نمود.

حضرت عبدالبهاء يك روز حكايت زيرر ا در باره امانت بيان فرمودند:

شخصى مى خواست به مكّه برود. مقدارى پول و جواهر داشت. آنها را در صندوق گذارد و صندوق را به طور امانت به همسايه خود داد.

وقتى برگشت و آن صندوق را مطالبه كرد همسايه، كه تاجر هم بود، انكار كرد و حتّى گفت تو ر ا نمى شناسم و پولى و امانتى نزد من ندارى .

شخص مذكور شكايت پيش حاكم بُرد و حالت تأثر و صداقت او موجب گرديد كا كه حا حاكم در كار او






 صندوق محتوى پول و جواهر راپس بدهد و او ر ا تأديب نمود.

## 

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء در جمع زائرين در خصوص مقايسه روش بهائى با روش بلشويكها در


 بلشويكها با زور مى خواهند بر ابرى ايجاد كنند.

مى بايستى اغنيا ثروت خود را انفاق كنند تا به زور از آنها گرفته نشود. عر بها و تر كها اگر به آنحֶه مى خواهند دست نيابند به حز بَ توده و كمونيستى رو مى آورند. مواساتيكه مبار كه ذكر شده معنى آن انفاق به اراده است و احباى اير ان به طريق مواسات بهائى عمل مى مردند.

## HV

حضرت عبدالبهاء حكايت زير را براى جناب بغدادى تعريف فرمودند:

روزى شخصى با سواد و عالم بهنام شن با شخص بى سوادى همسفر بود. وقتى از شهر خارج


 اين زارعين تمام آنحֶه را كه زراعت كردهانـ


 باشد. بعداً ازهم جدا مى شوند.

وقتى مرد بى سواد به منزل خودش مىر سد دختر او، كه طبقه نام داشته، از پدرش احوال سفر
 مى گويد تمام سؤالات اين مرد اشاره بوده است و اگر مى خـراهو اهى جواب آن آنها را يكايك بر ايت مى گی

سؤال اوّل كه پرسيده من تورا حمل كنم يا تو مر ا حمل مى كنى منظور او اين بوده كه آيا تو با

 قسمتى را مى فروشند. امّا سؤال سوّم منظور اين بوده كه آيا اين جنازه پسرى دارد كه بعد از او او اسم او را زنده نگههدارد يا خير.

چس از اين گفتگو كه دختر به هوش و ذكاوت شن پی ميبرد عاشق شن مى شود و چون دختر هم
 معروف زبان عرب كه مى گويند شن و طبقه به هم رسيدند منظور همين حكايت بار بالا مى باشد.

## 44 ـ لحاف بهلول





 ضمن بيانات مختلفه حكايت زير را تعريف مىفر مايند:




 كه علت سرو صدا ر ا جو يا بود مى گويد خبر مهّمّى نبود. دعوا سر لحاف بهلول بول بود كه گَرفتند و بردند.

## fD

دكتر ضياء مىنويسد روزى در خدمت حضر ت عبدالبهاء به مسافرخانه رفتند. وقتى وارد


 مكنون كرده چه مى

پس از سؤال خانم جواب مىدهد كه من به يكى شخص اير انى كه مقيم آمريكا مى وباشد فكر

 ملكوت الله نزديكتر كند و قلب را متوجه خداوند
 ميز ان وحى الهى است .

## f



 ستاركان فرو مىريزند و بسيار علامات ديكر.

پس كتاب او را باز كردم و آنحه راجع به آسمان و نامتناهى بودن آن ذكر شده بود خواندم و



 آنها پيروى كنيم . بهاو كَفتم اينها كه در كتاب است است معانى ديكرى دارد و و او خجالت كشيد.

## K

حضر ت عبدالبهاء بسيار كم غذا ميل مى فرمودند. وقتى با مجاورين و ز زائرين بودند به همه غذا



 اوقات نان و شير و پنير و سبزى ميل مى فرمودند ريند. خصوصاً نعنا و تر ترخان و ر ريحان را رادر بين
 نوشيدند و كم خواب هم بودند. ولى آن حضرت قوى بنيه بودند و هر روز مقدار زيادى پیياده روى مىنمودند.
Fr ـ ـ لباس شرقى

دكتر ضياء بغدادى حكايت مى كند روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء فرمودند:


 (با كلاه شايو) او را صدا زدم: تمدّن ـ تمدّن .

 اين مجسّمه سنگى است. گفتم اصلش از پارچه بوده. گفتند ما خياطى نداريم كه مثل آن آن را





 پر سيد مثل اين ارتش شما داريد؟ جواب داد ما ما صدهز ار دار داريم . سؤال شد شد شما شير بر برنج


 هم داريد؟ كنسول بلافاصله و بدون فكر جواب داد داد در شهر ماصد هز ار بر بيغيرت داريم .

## أ

روزى حضرت عبد البههاء به مناسبت آنكه در صَحر ا گردش مى كفرمودند به دكتر ضياء فرمودند:

 مى فرمودند صحَر ا عالم ارواح است و شهر ها عالم اجسام .

## ج 9 ـ علامت اَبله

دكتر بغدادى مىنويسد روزى حضرت عبدالبههاءبر حسب مزاح حكايت زير را بيان فرمودند: شخصى مشغول خواندن كتابى بود و مشاهده نمود كه دو علامت بر ایى اشخاص آبله و آحمق


 را بسوز اند امّا تمام ريشش سوخت و و كوسه شد.

سيس در حاشيه كتاب نوشت كه بهخدا قسم اين كفته كتاب صحيح است و به تجر به ثابت شد.

## 

حضرت عبدالبهاء روزى فرمودند ما ماشين تهيّه كرديم كه احباء با راحتى بهزيارت بر بروند ولى ما ما

 ولى نشد.

بعداً حكايت فرمودند شخصى بود كه شهرت داشت روضه خيلى خوب مى خیو اند و و تعزيه هم



 و تا حدود نيمساعت اين كلمه را مرتباً تكرا ر مى كرد.

شاهز اده فهميد كه اين مرد چیيزى سرش نمى شود و متقلب و حيله گر است. اور ا از منبر به
 شاهز اده او راببخشد و از زندان آز اد اد نمايد. شاهز اده در جر جواب كفت: عجله نكن، امرورز نشد بعداً




## _ _ ت تصديق جميل افندى

روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء تصديق جميل افندى الجّر اح ر ابه اينطريق بيان فرمودند:

> پپ از قتل چند نفر توسط احباء و محاكمه حضر ت بهاءاءله، افر اد دولتى مى خواستند كه حضرت بهاءاالهل را الز عكا سركون كنند.



 برويم و شام رادر آنجا باشيم.

بعضى موافق و بعضى ها مخالف بودند، بيشتر از اين جهت كه مطمئن بودند شامى قبلاً تهيه


 موضوع موجب تصديق جميل افندى الجّر اح مى گردرد.

روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء راجع به فوائد راستگوئى صُحبت مىفرمودند و ضمن آن حكايت زيرر ا بيان فرمودند:





 سليمان جواب مىدهد بهخدا آنچهَ گَتتم صحيح است و او در زنبيل روى سر من اس است.

دشمنان حرف او را باور نكرده و از او دور مى شوند، در حاليكه مرد در ز زنبيل نيمه جان و از
 حالامىتوانى با خيال راحت بيرون بيائى چون دشمنانت رفته اند. مر آي

 بودم حرف مرا باور نمى كرد دند و هم تو و و هم مر امى كشتند.

اين زمين بخواهيد حاضر است . آنقدر محزون بودم اينقدر خوشحال شدم . رفتم محضر ديدم به


 سرور و شادى راه مقام اعلى باز شد.

از بمبئى صندوق مرمر با اسم اعظم طلا سفارش دادم. چچون رسيد نخواستم كه در گمر كـ كا باز

 حالا بيايد و ببيند.

## 

مضمون بيانات حضرت عبدالبهاء راجع به مقام اعلى و گرفتاريهاى ساختن آن است:

فرمودند كه قائم مقام حيفا به نهايت عداوت منع ساختن عمارت مقام اعلى كرد و كفت اين بنيان



 اين را جهة متصرف فر ستادند و متصرّ فك عكا جهة قائم مقام حيفا فر ستاد ولى قائم مقام رد كرد.

شخصاً نزد قائم مقام رفتم خيلى كوشيدم. كفت من عداوتى ندارم. ميتر سم كه بعد مؤاخذه






بعداً مقام را درست كرديم. ولى از براى مقام راه نداشتيم . راه بسيار بدى بود. راه ديگرى




 صادق پاشا عقبش رفت باز هم نيامد. صادق پاشا تنها بر پرگشت.


 هستند. به ديدار آنها رفتم . برادرزاده قونسول گفت زمينى هست مال يك زن آلمانى. هر قدر از



 مىرود. آنقدر اين موضوع را تكر ار نمودند كه شاه تصميم گرفت شخصاً رسيدگى و موضوع ر ا كشف كند.

يك بار كه اياز عازم خارج شهر بود شاه پنهانى بانديمان از عقب او روان گشته و و به در در ب باطاق مر بوطه رسيدند. وقتى اياز وارد اطاق شد آنها آنها در ب ر را باز كر دند و و پادشا




 پادشاه بسيار خوشحال و مسرور گرديد و به وزراء و امر اء روكرده گفت حالا فها فهميديد چرا امن اياز را مقّرب در كاه نموده ام.

## _ _ _ حكايت آياز

> روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء حكايت زير را بيان داشتند:

فرمودند اياز جوانى بود چֶوپان كه از صغر سن حسرت ديدار پادشاه (سلطان محمود) را داشت



 قلبش شعله مى زده است. پادشاه از ديدار اياز و طرز جوا جواب خوشحال شده و و او را با خودش به قصر برد و مقّر ب دركاهش كرده.




 تو در نزد من بيش از اين قبيل سنگى ها مى باشد







 اعتناء به طلا را پرسيد. اياز جواب داد ايستادن و ديدن روى پادشاه برايم از جميع طلاها دلكش

بخش ب

حكاياتى از خاطرات دكتر ضياء بغدادى

ترجمه از عربى

شماره


آقا رضا كه شخصى تقريباً سالخورده بود درب را به روى اين سه نفر باز مى كند. از نگاه تعجب
 مسكونى معمولى باشد.



 منزل را بر ايتان تعريف كنم . آنان با كمى شكّو وتر ترديد بـيكديكيكر نكاه كرده بالاخره تصميم مى گيرند كه بهمنزل وارد شوند.

مادر آقا رضا در اين جا كمى مكث كر ده و در حاليكه چششمانش پر از اشك شد شده بود اضافه كرد





در اينجا اشك از چشمان اين خانم رئوف و شيرين بيان جارى شد و كفت مىدانيد اين اين سه نفر


 خود دريكى از كشور هاى دور افتاده هستند.

## سّ ـ بيت شير از

آقاى ميثاق الله نور الدين اين داستان را بر ايم فرستاده اند:


 بسيار جالب و جاذب لطف بود و مطمئناً شوق آور و موجب ايقان بيشتر هر شنونده میى شود.







اين دزد مدّتى در كمال سكوت صبر مى كند كه شايد آن جوان بالاخره به داخل ماخل منزل برود و و او





مدّتى صبر مى كنند و تصميم مى گيرند يكنفر ديگر بالا رود. بنابر اين نفر ديگرى بالا مى رور ود و


 در هر مرتبه همان صحنه را مشاهده مى كننـنـئ

اين سه نفر پس از مذاكر ات طولانى مى گويند حتماً اينجا يك محّل مهرمّى است كه اين سيّد




## r

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء راجع به شر ايط دعا و مناجات بيانات مىفرمودند و فر مودند كه دعا و مناجات نبايد بر اى نفع شخصى و از روى خودخواهى باشد و حكايت ذيل را بيان فرمودند:

خلاصه حكايت آنكه روزى سه نفر با هم در قايقى سفر مى كردند: يكى مسلمان ، ديگرى
 آن طرف پرت مى كرد و خطر غرق شدن قايق در كار بود. شخص مسلمان شروع




 عنايتى كند كه هر دوى شما راضى شويد!

حال ببينيم شيخ محمود كه بود و كه شد: وقتى جمال مباركى به قلعه عكّا وارد شدند شيخ

 معتقد بود اينها كافرند، ملحدند و قتل ايشان واجب است .

روزى يك كارد بر مى دارد و زير عباى خود پنهان مى كند و به قشله مى روه، به قصد آنكه حضر ت











بعد اين شخص به خدمات بسيار درخشانى نائل و موّفق گرديد وهمیچنان كه اشاره رفت






 چنين خدمات برجسته مؤيّد گردد.

- جناب ذبيح


## اr ـ شيخ محمود عراقى

در زمانى كه حضرت بهاءاالله را به قلعه عكّا سر گون كردند قلعه عكّا محصور بوده و فقط از دو

 در ب خشكى مى سيدند تازه بر ایى ورود به قلعه با اشكالات


 احدى نتواند با حضرت بهاءاءاله ملاقات نمايد.

معمولاً از پنجره دوّم ساختمانى در داخل قلعه، درب خشكى را مورد نظار ت قر ار مى دادند تا
 ورود او شوند. اين مسافرين مجبور بودند در بيرون قلعه، خارج خندق به انتظار بايستند و به
 تشريف بياورند و دست مبارك رl از پنجره خارج و اظهار عنايت فرمايند. اين تنها زيارت آنها بود.

اين وضع مدتها ادامه داشت. پس از دو سال و چند ماه كه حضرت بهاء الله از زندان انفر ادى آزاد شدند در سه منزل خان خّوام، خان ربيع و خان ملك مدتى سكونت فرمودند. زمانى پ ورود به بيت عودى خمار و نزول لوح مبارك قد قاحترق المخلصون چند ريند نفر از دوستان، منجمله


 استراحت كنند مجدداً در معرض صدمات و تضييقات جديدى قر ار گرفتند.

مأمورين شبانه به بيت عودى خمار ريخته و جمال مبارك را خارج و سه شب ايشان را نگَه

 اين شخص كه شيخ محمود عراقى نام داشت از جمله آيت الله هاى معّظم قلعه عكّا بود. او پـ


-r ـ داستان حاجى كريم خان

روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء در جمع زائرين راجع به حاجى كريمخان و و نا ناصر الدين شاه بياناتى



 ناصر الدين شاه كفت كتابهاى شما بـى ثمر است، شما شمشير الـي
 دشمنانش اسم او ر ا هفت كاف كذاشاشتند
 چطور ريشه هردو كنده شد.

حاجى ميرز احيدرعلى يكى از متقّدمين و مؤمنين اوليه در كتاب بهجت الصـي الصدور كه به به امر حضرت عبدالبهاء از خاطر اتش مرقوم داشتى اشته از قول حضرت عبدالبهاء داستان زير را نوشته است :

پادشاهى بود مدّبر و باهوش روزى از وزيرش پر سيد كه در روز خلعت پوشان كه هم همه در باريان


 صاحبان مناصب و بزر گان مملكت جمع هستند چگكونه جواب سؤالات سلطان را را بدهد.

وزير ر انوكرى بود به غايت باهوش و زر رنگ. چون حز



 دوّم اين است كه خداوند لباس ستّارى دربرّبى كند و كَناه بندكَانش را رامى يوشد.

چون روز موعود فر ا رسيد و همه بزر كان مملكت و صاحب منصبان عاليرتبه جمع شدند وزير به به




 _حاجى ميرز احيدرعلى

وقتى كه دولت عثمانى حضرت بهاءا الله و همر اهان را به عكّا سر گون مى كند چپند نفر از از



 به سقف اطاق آويز ان مى كرد.

از قضا در آن سال مدّت مديدى بود كه بار ان در قبرس نباريده بود و همه خصوصاً زارعين



 سِحر و جادوئى است كه ازل مى كند.

روزى تصميم مى گيرند كه در نبودن ازل به خانه او بروند و سبد ر ا ایيدا كرده و و آنحّه در آن بود




 خوشحالى رقص كنان از اطاق خارج مى شود و مُحّبت مردم نسبت اين عمل موجب مى شود كه او و چند نفر ديگر تا توانس نجات پيدا نمايند.
YV _ داستان كشيش و حاجى ميرز احيدرعلى




 آويز ان كنى كه حضر ت مسيح دوست داشته و به آن حضر ت خدمت كرده آن باشن

كشيش مى پر سد آن چيست ؟ حاجى جواب مىدهد حضر ت مسيح خرى داشته كه خيلى





وقتى حاجى مُشّرف مىشود حضر ت عبدالبهاء به او رو كرده مى فرمايند: "مَرد حسابى باز رفته الى و حرف حسابى زده ایى ؟"

## צ「 ـ اولين مسافرخانه عگّا

در زمان عثمانيها گمر ك شهر عكاّ در كاروانسرائى بود كه بعداً گمر ك از آنجا نقل مكان كرد و ور



 ماه در سه منزل مختلف در عكا تشريف داشتند.












 شعر زير را اسروه عرض مى كند:

 -جناب ذبيح


 هستيم من كجا و امتحان كجا.
-جناب اشر اق خاورى

حضر ت عبدالبهاء جالس و مشغول بيانات بودند و دست توى كيسه نموده و يكى را را برداشته






 فر مودند و دستور پست كردن آنرا دادند.

بعد از مدّتى محفل روحانى طهر ان به سيّد صادق اعلام مى كند كه جواب عريضه شما آمده است.



 خانم رنگَ از رويش پريده و فوراً به محفل مراجعه و جر جا يان را اباز گو مى كند.

اعضاى محفل مى گويند حقّ جواب كاغذ را داده بايستى آنر ا باز كرده و و در حضور شوهر شما

 رسيده از حضر ت عبدالبهاء را باز مى كند و و مى خوالند
 الهى است كه خداوند به هر كس مى خواهد مى دهد.
 مرقوم فرموده اند جواب كامل و در ست سؤال او مى باشـد


 حضور حضرت عبدالبهاء بنويسند و تقاضاى تشّرف بر ای او او بنمايند.

## ـ ـ ـ ـكايت سيد صادق





 تمام اثاثيه را بشويد و غسل بدهد


 ساير حديث ها هم در ست باشند.









مدتى بعد جمعى عازم زيار ت بودند و فائزه خانم پاكت حضر ت عبدالبهاء راء را را به مسافرين مى



 الى هز ار عدد بود.

روز سوم صبح زود كه بنده در خواب بودم ( برادرم هم خواب بود) صداى ضر به زدن به در بر
 انجير به دست آن جاست. گفت شما مسافر هاى عزيز من هستيد و من راضى نيستم بر بر انى خاطر انجير صبح به اين زودى بلند شويد و خواب خود




شبى حضر ت عبدالبهاء به مناسبت آنكه سر ميز شام انجير آورده بودند پس از تناول شام حكايت زير را تعريف فرمودند:

فرمودند در ايّام جزار (نام والى شهر) زن پيرى بود كه از از درخت انجيرى كه در خا خانه داشت



 يكى دانه جو فرو كند و طورى جو را داخل انجير نمايد كه علامتى نداشته بانـ باشد

فرداصبح خود جزار به دروازه شهر رفت و دستور داد هر كس مى خو او اهد انجير وار ارد شهر بكند



 مجازات رسيد.

اين حكايت را كه مى نوشتم ياد حدود پنجاه و پنج سال قبل افتادم كه اين بنده خيلى جوان


 دارد و در تابستانها اجاره مـى دهد.

به منزل پروفسور مرجعه كرديم و از قضا اطاق خالى داشت و شب را در آنجا مانديم ولى صبح

 خالى خورديم و صبح روز بعد هم مجدداً اين عمل را اتكر ار كرديم .

## r ז ـ نارنگى هاى روضه مبار كه

يكى از زائرين اعتاب مقدسّه، جناب حبيب الله مدبّر، كه قد بلند و رشيدى داشته بعضى مواقع
 ولى ساير زائرين خيلى نار احت بودند كه چنانحپه حضرت ولى امر الله بفهمند ممكن است نار احت




در اين موقع همه زائرين نار احت بودند كه جناب مدبّر چه جواب خواهند داد. ايشان با حاضر جوابى مخصوص خودشان و شادى فراوان عرض مى كند قربان از دست مبار كـ خير. اين پاسخ باعث سرور خاطر مبارك و همه زائرين مى شود و و و حضر و


ـ هوشنگ زركريور

شاه از ديدن كنيز ك مورد علاقه خود خوشحال شد و او ر ا بخشيد و به كدخدا انعام و به وزير صله


## M ت تمرين

يكى از پادشاهان ايران به نام سلطان سنجر علاقه فر اوانى به شكار داشت و خود شكار چیى بسيار ماهرى هم بود. روزى با يكى از كنيز كان بسيار مقرّب خود به شكار رفت و از دور آهوئى


 كار نيكو كردن از پر كردن است.

چادشاه خيلى عصبانى شد و با آنكه كنيزک ر ا هم خيلى دوست داشت تحويل وزير داد و گفت
 موقع صدور اين فرمان عصبانى بوده و ممكن است بعداً پشيمان شود
 اين موضوع مطلع نشود.

مدتى نگذشته بود كه گاو كد خدا زائيد و گوساله كوچكى متولّد شد. پس از چند رپ روز كنيز ک از

 مى گذاشت و از راه پِله به پشت بام مى رفت .

به تدريج كه گوساله بزر گ مى شد تمرين موجب گرديده بود كه كنيزک با قدرت گوساله را بلند
 كنيز ك به كدخدا گفت به هر وسيله شده به وزير اطلاع بده كه پادشاه را روزى به خانه تو بياورد.

كدخدا جريان را به وزير اطلاع داد. وزير هم روزى پس از شكار شاه را براى غذاى ظهر به منزل كدخدا دعوت نمود. پس از صرف غذا، كدخدا به شاه عرض نمود كه دخترى دارم كه


 خود را باز كرد و گفت اعليحضرتامن هم كه همين جمله را گفتم پس چر ا دستور قتل مر ا دادى

از بر كت اشرفيهاى حضر ت عبدالبهاء الحمدالله هم ايمان محكمى به جمالقدم و اسم اعظم پیيدا


 جمال بيمثالش زندگى مى كنيم. . اين بود داستان مولا مولا مولا كفتن من كه همان مان مولا كار را را به اينجا رسانيد.
.-ا.بوالفضل رحمانى

در اين موقع هيكل مبار ك نگًاهى به اين اشرفيها ى دوخته به لبه قبايم نموده و فرمودند: خدا
 و شغل قلندرى را شروع كردم .




 بردارم و به كسب و كارى مشغول شوم.

تا ينكه روزى به بيابانى دور از شهر رفته و ديدم آبشار نسبتاً خوبى آنجا بود و چون از شهر شهر





 خلاصه، چندين حسن خداپسندانه در فكرم پرور اندم .

روزى گشتم تاصاحب زمين و آبشار را كه در اداره اوقاف بود پيدا كردم و آن راخريدم








 باشيد تا حضر ت عبدالبهاء تشريف بياورند.

منهم ماندم حدود دو هفته بعد حضرت عبدالبهاء تشريف آوردند و من تا به لقاى مبارك چششمّم



 خداحافظى و توديع به حضور مبارك مشرف شويم.


 مبار كش رادر چشم سر ضبط كنيم .

بارى، در اين موقع پس از لحظه ای سكوت و باصداى آرام نصايح مشفقانه بر ای تعليم و تربيت
 مدهوش بيانات مبار كش بوديم كه دستور فر مودند خادم كاس اسه اشر اشر فـى را ا بياور د. فوراً أ اطاعت
 فرموده و مرخصشان مى كردند.

وقتى به اين بنده، كه نفر آخر بودم، نوبت رسيد مرا در آغوش كشيده بوسيدند و فرموردند آيند



 فر مائيد به آسترى دولبه قباى خود تعدادى اشرفى دونى دوخته ام كه به ظـا وقتى سر راه دزدان بى انصاف به من حمله كنند نتوانند اين اشرفيها را ببينند تا اتر احتياجى

## Y ـ ـ داستان ايمان درويش خندان

درويش خندان براى افسر بهائى كه ماموريت در شهر بهببهان داشته داستان ايمان خود را حنين تعريف نموده است:

مى گويد من درويشى مانند ساير دراويش با قيافه درويشى در كوچه و و بازار شهر مرتب ور ورد


 كَفتم اكر عاشق حق و مولايم نباشم به اين شكل كه شما داريد مشاهده می كا كنيد دا در نمى آمدم .


 و آنوقت كه عاشق آن روى نور انى شدى و قلبت روشن شد در آن مان موقع كه بكَئى مولا مولا با بيشتر تاثير خوهد داشت .




 هستند ولى معلوم نيست كى به حيفا مى رسندا رسند.




 قصد داشت مر از زير اين درخت كهن بيرون كندي

## -

 مى كرد و از او مطالبه يك عدد تخم طاووس مى نمود و باغبان از از دادن تخم طاورس امتم امتناع مىورزيد.

بالاخره آن شخص ناقض به حضرت عبدالبهاء مر اجعه نمود و شكوه كرد كه هر چها از



 اش درنمى آيد نمى دانم علت چپيست.

هيكل مبارك بعداً از باغبان استفسار مى فرمايند. باغبان جواب مى دهد من چون مايل نبودم

 اطاعت شد و هم اين شخص ناقض از داشتن جوجه طاوروس روضه مبار كه محروم شد. در در اين وقت حضرت عبدالبهاء تبسّمى فرمودند و باغبان مرخص شد الـن

## 19 ـ نقاب صورت

روزى مادر عبدالعلى حكيم كليمى به حضور مبار ك مشرف مى شود ولى سر و صور ت را با

 مى فر مايند اصالاخجالت نكش و ونقاب را پائينتر كن. وقتى كمى پائنى پائين تر بياور . او آنقدر پائين تر كشيد كه بكلى سر و صورتش پی پيدا نبود آني آنوقت فر مودند آلان خوبست خيلى خوبست نه تو مى توانى كسى را ببينى و نه كسى تو ر ر امى تواند بـيبيند.


بيشمارى در عالم امر ساخته خواهد شد امّا اين مسافر خانه اولى چیيز ديگرى است خالص بوده جميع مر سلين و مقرّبين از عالم بالا به ايشان دعا ما مى كنـند و طلب تا تاييد و موفقيت هاى روز افزون.

- ابوالفضل رحمانى

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ا- موسى تقى اف از حضر ت عبدالبهاء ثروت خواسته بود و و از يك دكان كو } \\
& \text { چخنان فضل حق شامل حالش شده بود كه در حال حاضر ثروت زيادى از جم جمله سه چاه نفت } \\
& \text { خداوند به او عطا فرموده بود. }
\end{aligned}
$$

「- ז- در آن موقع در بادكوبه هتل يا مهمانخانه وجود نداشته و آقا ميرزا جعفر در قهوه خانه كه مر سوم آن زمان بوده مى خوابيدند.

روزى كه ساختمان مسافرخانه پس از شش ماه تمام مى شود مهمانى مفصلى ترتيب مى دهند و
 تشريف بياورند و اولين نفرى باشند كه وارد مسافرخانه می ری شوند جناب حاجى ميرزا حيدر على اصفهانى كه قبلاً قلمدان و دسته كاغذى ائى حاضر كرده بودند جلو مى ائى



و كاغذ را مى گیيرند و با قيافه الى پر از سرور مى فرمايند چیه

 و اين مسافرخانه را بنا كرده است. بعد شروع به نوشتن مى فرمايند: اين بنيان مهممانخانه روحانيست و بانى آقامير زا جعفر شير ازى رحمانى

در اين موقع عندليب فى البداهه شعرى براى اين روز سروده و با صداى بلند مى خواند.


 حافظ اين بناى مسافرخانه را پيش بينى مى كرده كه اين شعر را سروده است:
خوشا شيراز و وضع بيمثالش خداوندا نگهدار از زوالش
ز ركن آباد ما صد لوحش الله
ميان جعفر آباد و مصّلى عـلى الـير آميز مى آيد شمالش

در هنگام رسيدن به كلمه مصّلى نگًاهى به طرف مسافرخانه نموده و مى فرمايند:

به شيراز آى و فيض روح قدسى جوى از مردم صاحب كمالش

و بعد جلوس نموده و مى فرمايند: هر امرى اولّش يكى لطف خاصّى دارد مثلاً جناب حاجى الا


 ديگرى است كه آقاميرز ا جعفر بر ایى راحتى خيال مار ما ساخته است. بعدها مسافرخانه هانى

در هر صورت پس از مدت كوتاهى به حيفا برمى گَردند ولى چون با باموسى تقى اُف قر ار گذاشته






آقا ميرز اجعفر نار احت شده و به طرف حيفا حركت مى كند و در بيت مبار ك ساكن مى شـ شود.
 عبدالبهاء مى فرمايند ايشان خسته هستند من خودم مى آيم كه يكديكر را را ببينيم .





 از او گرفت.
 قر ار است در اين زمين ساخته شود. آقا مير زاجعفر به اتفاق آقا
 صاحب باغ مشنول مذاكره و قرار خريد مى گذذارند.

وقتى به دفتر ثبت مى روند آقا ميرز اجعفر مى گويند خريدار زمين حضر ت ار عباس افـد افندى


 امضاء كنم ؟ هيكل مباركى لااقل تا پانصد هز ار سال در عالم هست. هيكل مـلم مباركى با خنده و سرور امضاء مى فرمايند.


 و يا كارهاى تجارتى ديگرى دارند.

آقا ميرز اجعفر سه روز مرتب از قهوه خانه به دفتر آقا موسى مى رفتند و تا ظهر موفق به ديدار
 برو به تقى أف بكَ من جعفر شير ازى هستم و به ده دستور حضرت عبدالبهاء آمده ام ام و مى آخواهم
 به من نمى رسد. من بايستى سريعاً به عشق آباد حر كت كنم .

در اينموقع در ب اطاق موسى بازمى شود زيرا موسى بر ایى صرف نا نا هار تشريف مى بر انردند. چجون




 ساختمان شروع كردد.

موسى فكر مى كند و مى گويد شما حالا به عشق آباد برويد و پولهاى خود را اجمع كنيد و برگر ديد
 موسى سرد است. لذا به عشق آباد حر كت مى كند.



 همان حال متوجّه مى شود كه عنايات حق و لطف حضر ت عبدالبهاء شامل حال ايشان شده كه چائى به اين قيمت رسيده است.

## |11 - مسافرخانه حيفا

آقاى ابوالفضل رحمانى از امريكا شرح زير را در مورد ساختمان مسافرخانه حيفا كه توسط پدر ايشان انجام كرفته بر ايم ار ارسال داشته اند اند

وقتى آقا ميرزا جعفر شير ازى ( پدر آقايان هادى و ابوالفضل رحمانى ) براى زيارت تا به حيفا
 راههاى دور پياده و سواره به حيفا مى ايند و چون ين محلى
 بر ایى زيارت روضه مبار كه مى آيند ناقضين با صحبت هاى خون آين اين نفوس پاک را منحرف مى كنند.


 پيشنهاد ايشانر ا قبول نمى فر مايند.

پس از مدتيكه آميرز اجعفر در حيفا مى مانند ملاحظه مى كنند كه زائرين به همين قهوه خانه




 شركت نمايد.

در اين هنگام آقا ميرزا جعفر جسارتاً از حضر ت عبدالبهاء تمنّى مى كند كه اجازه فر مايند اين

 فرمايند.

پس ازچندى بعد ، موقعيكه اميليا در روضه مبار كه بوده مشاهده مى كند كه كه كاميونى وار كارد باغ



 حضر ت ولى امر الهَ با سرور و خوشحالى از از كاميون پياد

 سفارش دادم و صبر كردم تاحاضر شد و و آنرا در كاميون كذار دم و با خودم آوردم و آنرا به نام شما نصب خواهم كرد.

كو اينز در ب همان در ب باصلى ورودى قصر بهجى و روضه مبار كه است كه به نام در ب اميليا

- جناب ذبيح



## IV دروازه كالينز - الي

معمولاً هر سال در فصل تابستان حضر ت ولى عزيز امر الهّ چند روزى بر ایى رفع خستگى و
 منزل داشتند و مخارج خيلى كم داشت مى ماندند.

يكسال اميليا كالينز ملاحظه مى كند كه موقع مرخصى حضرت ولى وري امر الله شده ولى ايشان به
 مى پر سد كه چها اتفاقى افتاده كه ايشان به مر مرخصى ساليانى مى فرمايند كارهاى عقب افتاده امرى زياد دارم .

باز پس از چند روز اميليا كالينز مر اجعه مى كند و استدعا مى نمايد كه ايشان با اين همه كار و و




 كارهاى مزَّم را با سلامتى و شادابى انجام دهند.



 مرخصى برويد كه صد در صد بر ایى سلامتى شما لازم است .

حضر ت ولى امر الله پس از سكوت مختصرى مى فر مايند خوب مى روم. روز بعد از اين كفتكو صبح زود حر كت مى كنند.

19 - شعر جناب فيضى
 احباء وارد مى شوند و جهت ميز بان شعر زير را سروده و به صاحب خانه مى دهي دهند:

يا ولى امر الله
خوشا دردى كه درمانش تو باشى خوشا راهى كه پايانش تو باشى

خوشا چشمى كه رخسار تو بيند خوشا مُلكى كه سلطانش تو باشى

همه شادى و عشرت باشد ايدوست در آن خانه كه مهممانش تو باشى
چهه باك آيد زغم آن كس كه او را

نَحهدار و نگَهبانش تو باشى

و به اين شعر به بيانات خود خاتمه دادند:

افتادگى آموز اگر طالب فيضى
هر گز نخورد آب زمينى كه بلند است
در بهاران كى شود سرسبز سنگ
خاك شو تا گَّ برويد رنگَ رنگَ
-جناب فيضى



 وحشت زده مى شود كه كاتب حضرت بهاءاءاله از كجا مى داند اند كه من با قنسول روس صـن اين كرده ام .

پّ از مدّتى شخص ديگرى مى آيد و عيناً همين سؤال را تكر ار مى كند و ونگر انى محمّد رحيم بيشتر و بيشتر مى شود. تا آنكه به زيارت حضر آي






 شكست سختى خوردند ).

ـ ـ اديب طاهر زاده

## ها - دعاى تزار روسيه

وقتى جمال اقدس ابهى در ادرنه تشريف داشتتند براى تزار روسيه الكساندر دوّم لوحى ارسال
 مى كردى و از خداوند بزر ری كمك مى خواستى ما دعاى تو را شنيديم و آرزوى تو انجام خواهد شد.

در اصفهان شخصى به نام محمد رحيم بشَرف ايمان فائز و شروع به تبليغ مى كند و و به آز ار و





مى شناسد به او معرفى كند تا بتواند از كتب بهائى استى استفاده نمايد. احباء آياء آقا محمّد رحيم را را


در ملاقات با قنسول از او تقاضا مى شود كه مدّت بيشترى بماند تا در بارهٔ ديانت بهائى با هم صحبت كنند.

يك شب ضمن صحبت هاى امرى قنسول به آقا محمّد رحيم مى گويد من من از آوردن تو تو به اينجا


 او دادهاند؟




If ـ د دكتر حيفا

در حيفا دكترى بوده كه حضر ت عبدالبهاء از او دل خوشى نداشتند. روزى بر حسب مز اح اين شعر ها ر ا زمز مه مى فر مرايند:

ملك الموت رفت پيش خدا


-جناب ذييح

## זا ـ داستانى از نبيل

روزى عدهاّى از مجاورين در باغچها جلوى منزل حضر ت عبدالبهاء مشغول بيل زدن زير

 مى شود و باز جناب نبيل امتناع مى نمايد ريد



 حضرت عبدالبهاء با تبسّم احباب را ترك مى فر مايند. -جناب ذبيح

## r ا - داستانى از مجاورين هيكل مبارى

> وقتى سه نفر از مؤمنين در حضور حضرت بهاءاءله بودند: جناب آقا ميرزا حيدر على اصفهانى ، جناب زين المقربين و جناب مشكين قلم.



 است نمى شنوند.

- جناب ذيبح


## ||- نبيل و مالميرى

مى گويند جناب مالميرى پدر جناب اديب طـاهرزاده عادت داشتند كه مرتب چاى بنوشند و تسبيح بيندازند و ايشان مدتى با جناب نبيل اعظم هم اطم اطـا
 ايشان توجهى نمى كرد.

خانه اين دو نفر در عكا تقريباً مقابل سوق ابيض بوده است. جناب نبيل اعصابش از اين چایى



روزى جناب نبيل كه قد بسيار بلندى داشته اند در نبودن جناب مالميرى تسبيح ايشانر ا به




 ميرزا طاهر را اذيت نكن برو تسبيح را پائين بياور و به ايشان بده .


## -ا- چهار صفت

افطار در حضور ايشان دعوت شده بودند ضمن بيانات خود چنين فران فرمودند:

جمال قدم جّل اسمه الاعظم از چهار صفت بسيار خوششان مى آمد:

「 †

ضمناً حضرت بهاءاالهَ از ینج صفتى كه بشر به آن آلوده مى شود متاثر مى شدند:

 مغرور مى شوند.
「 ـ ـ - كسانيكه به شخصيت خانواد Y


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { در خاتمه جلسه جناب فيضى فرمودند: بيان جمالقدم است كه مى فر مايند: } \\
& \text { توقع شعور از اهل غرور ممتنع و محال است . }
\end{aligned}
$$

- جناب فيضى


## 9 ـ مريض و دكتر ترك

روزى حضرت عبدالبهاء بر حسب پيش آمدى حكايت زير را بيان فرمودند:



 سن است. مريض غضبناك شد و كفت خداوند خانه ات را اخر اب كند. هينج طبّ و معالجه بجز اين دو كلمه كبر سن ياد نگَرفتى؟ دكتر گَفت اين عصبانيت تو هم از كبر سن است. - حضرت عبدالبياء

## ^ - خواب خليل اردكانى

> جناب فا فاضل ارد كانى مشاند مشاور قاره آسيا روزى در لندگ سويس اين داستان را

فرمودند داستانى تعريف مى كنم كه عموى من آقاى خليل اردكانى تعريف فرموده اند و و آنكه

 مى نمودند.

يك روز وقتى خواب بود در خواب ديد كه حضور حضر ت عبدالبهاء مشرف است است


 مشاهده مى كند كه حضر ت عبدالبهاء تشريف آوردند و فرمودند خليل الاغ را را به ايستگاه قطار بياور.

پس از بيدارى خليل به خودش مى گويد من بايد به ايستگاه قطار بروم. اگر تشريف آور دند كه روه



 خليل مى كنند و مى فرمايند خليل چند دفـد هِه بايستى بكَويم كه الاغ را ابياور. - جناب فاضل اردكانى

## ح V V V

آقاى صحيحى فرمودند جناب ورقا ايادى عزيز امر الله تعريف فرمودند پیر پر من در در




















 مى فرمايند راستى پدر هم چییز خوبى است.

داشتهاند آنرا تلاوت مى فرمايند بعداً حضرت بهاءاءاله مى فرمايند شما هله هله يا بشارت ر را بلديد





 ـ هوشنگ محمودى

## 9 ـ عروسى حضرت عبدالبهاء

 حضرت عبدالبههاء است داستان عروسى حضرت عبدال البهاء را ا اينطور تعريف فرمودند:

داستان از اينقر ار است كه وقتى حضر ت بهاءاءالله دستور فر مودند كه سر سر كار منيره خانمانم



در آن موقع عبود كم كم به حضر ت بهاءا الهّ و حضر ت عبدالبهاء علاقه مند شده بود و ار ارد ت ت فوق




 را اهم سر كار آسيه خانم و ورقه مكرّمه عليا مى دهند.

روزى حضرت بهاءالله حضرت عبدالبهاء رامى خواهند و مى فر مايند شما امروز زودتر از ازكار
 فرمايند بسيار خوب و و ساعت چهار بعداز





 مبارك مى آيند.



 بالاخره توسط آقا محمد على ماهوت فر فروش به حقيقت امر پیى مى برند و ايشان موجب هدايت ميرزا مى شوند.

## هـ ـ ايمان آوردن جناب ابوالفضائل

قصّه عجيب و شرح تصديق جناب ابوالفضائل يكى از داستانهاى غريب و و شيرين



استاد حسين دكأن محقّرى نزديك دروازه حضر ت شاه عبدالعظيم داشت و و و هر كس كـ كه
 مشترى ر ا با صحبت هاى خود مشغول مى كرد و شروع به تبليغ مى نمـي نود.

معمولاً شب هاى جمعل كه علما و مجتهدين بر ای زيارت حضر ت عبد المد العظيم مى رفتند براى نعل كردن اسب از دكان او استفاده مى كردند.

روزى جناب ميرز ا ابوالفضائل كه مى خواستند به زيار ت بروند و و اسب خود را را جهت

 شادمان مى فرمائيد.

جناب ابوالفضائل مى گويد بكَو. عرض مى كند شنيده ام كه مى گويند حديث معتبرى




 درخانه هائيكه سگَ وجود دارد بار ان نبارد. در صـر صورتيكه اينطور نيست و بار بار ان به همه جا مى بارد.

جناب ميرز ابا تفكّر مى فرمايند اين سؤا لها به تو نيامده برو و به كار خار خودت ادامه بده

 اين نعلبند ر ار ها كنيد اين حسين بابى است و حر فهاى نادرست زياد مى زند. جناب

خليل دُم موش راگر فته و او رامى برد نزديك دروازه رها ها مى سازد و خليل مى گويد از آن آن تاريخ ببعد ديكر كسى اجازه نداشته حيوانى را در داخل در در مقامات بكشد. --خليل اردكانى

1 ـ ـدر قديم قند به شكل مخروط درست مى شد و به نام كله قند معروف بود

## f

جناب كامر ان صحيحى بر ايم تعريف فرمودند كه در خاطر ات خليل ار اردكانى هست كه ايشان در خدمت حضرت عبدالبهاء بودند و عاشق و دلباخته حضر تر عبر عبدالبهاء ابر بودند.

يك روز براى حضرت عبدالبهاء يك كله قند (1) وسيله يكى از زائرين مى رسد رسد. حضرت




حضرت عبدالبهاء مى فرمايند پس سهم من كو. خليل خيلى نار احت مى شود زيرا فكر نمى


 مبارك مى كند.


 اين موش را نديده ای؟ موش سفيد بسيار قشنگى است است . خليل اطـي اطاعت كرده و قندها را با به چههار قسمت تقسيم مى كند و تقديم مى نمايد.









سال ندارم كه در اين سالها در صلح و صفا و آسايش زندگانى داشته ام .

شاه از اين جواب بسيار مسرور شد و مجدداً كيسه زر به او داد و شاه به همر اهان كفت بيش




روزى حضر ت عبدالبهاء در عكّا براى ديدار احباء تشريف آور دند و ملاحظه فرمودند كـد كه در در




 همينطور است و در حقيقت شما نُه سال بيشتر نداريد و بعداً داستان زير را را تعريف فرمودند:

روزى پادشاهى با نديمان خود در باغ خود قدم مى زد و پيرمرد بسيار مسنى را اديد كه



 ديگر ان ميوه آنرا بخورند.

پادشاه از جواب باغبان پير خوشش آمد و كيسهاى زر به او داد. باغبان پير به زانو افتاد و از





 جواب داد دوازده سال.

پادشاه با تعجّب به او نگاه كرد و كفت چطور چنیين چچيزى ممكن است تو خيلى پيرتر از





چֶ افتاده است خوب كه نگاه مى كنند مى بينند در وسط يكطرف ستون روى می محل شكسته


 مى توان آن را به هم وصل نمود و محكم كرد.

پس از برگشتن از محل روز بعد حضور سر كارروحيه خانم مى روند و جريانرا تعريف مى كنـند

 خدمات صادقانه و عاشقانه اميليا كالينز در آنجا نصب مى نمايند. - جناب ذبيح


در اين هنگام اميليا اجازه مرخصى گَرفته و فورى به تلتًر اف خانه رفته و تلتًر اف بسيار فورى به به





اميليا روز چهار شنبه به حضور مبارك مشرف شده و پول را تقديم مى كند و و و حضر ت و ولى مقدّس





وقتى اين ستون به حيفا مى رسد متاسفانه صعود واقع شده بود و طبق دستور هيات ايادى ايّى




 بيت العدل اعظم رهسپار زمين مشرق الاذكار مى شوند.

در راه مشرق الاذكار خيابان باريكى بوده كه به زحمت كاميون حامل ستون و جرّاثقال ميتوانسته


 عبور دهند. اين عمل انجام مى شود تا اينكه به زمين مشرق الاذكار الين مى رين رسند.

در اين حين يكدفعه زنجير جرّاثقال كه ستون به آن وصل بوده باز و ستون به زمين مى افتد و


 ستون را با يك چاقوى تيز از وسط بريده باشند قسمتى به طرف راست و قسمت ديگر بطرف

## r ـ خ خريد زمين مشرق الاذكار

در زمان تشّرف به اعتاب مقدّسه جناب ذبيح حكايت زير را تعريف فرمودند

 مصدر خدمتى بشود. منزل اميليا كالينز اطاقى در زير اطاق خوا خواب حضر تو ولى امر الله بوده

يكى از شبها ملاحظه مى كند با وجوديكه ديروقت است هنوز چراغ اطا اط ق حضرتش خا خموش




 ورود مى فرمايند.

اميليا وارد اطاق مى شود و بدون پرده مى گويد مولاى عزيز ديشب شما اصلاً استر احت نفرموده






 هيج كارى در آن انجام نمى دهيد ولى بِيائى ها تمام


 پنجشنبه هفته آينده وقت داده اند و اگر خريدارى نكنم از دست مى رود.

$$
1 \text { ـ به ياد ايادى عزيز امر الله جناب ابوالقاسم فيضى }
$$


 شعر ذيل را مى نويسند و روى ملافه مريض مى كذار ندن









ـ شاعر نامعلوم


بخش الف : داستانهاى بهائى

ارسالى توسط دوستان

شماره اتا شّ

روزى يكى از محافل منطقه ويكتوريا در كانادا دعوتى از بنده نمود كه در يكى از جلسات چند داستان امرى بگويم و در آن جلسه مورد تشويق احباء و دوستان قرار گرفتم . در ضمن يكبار
 افتخار گفتن داستان امرى كوتاهى داشتم كه مورد تشويق ايشان قرار گرفتم .

در همين ايّام مسافرتى به جنوب فرانسه نمودم و با يكى از دوستان قديمى و مهربان به نام
 هشتصد صفحهاى عربى تاليف جناب دكتر ضياء بغدادى را به بنده مر مرحمت فرمودند

 فرمودند كه جناب دكتر بغدادى يادداش فتوكیى كتاب خاطرات دكتر ضياء بغدادى راگرفتم و به كانادا آوردم و از چ چند نفر از دو دوستان تقاضا نمودم كه هفته الى يكبار دور همر جمع شويم و به خـه خواندن اين كتاب و و ترجمه آن به فارسى اقدام نمائيم .



 امتنان و تشكرُ را دارم .

در ضمن متذكر مى گردم كه ممكن است بعضى از اين حكايات قبلاً در كتب ديگرى هم بحچاپ
 دلنشين است .

اميد است خوانندگان عزيز با ديده عفو و اغماض به آن توجه نمايند زير ا نويسندگى و و اصولاً ادبيات كار و پيشه من نبوده و بنده با آهن و چو به دست گرفته ام . ويكتوريا - كانادا
مهندس عزيز روحانى

## مقدّمه

در دور ان كَشتهه يكى از آداب و رسوم اير انيان خواندن كُتب حكايت و قصّه بوده است.


 نقالى صورت ميكرفت تشريف مى بردند و به ابلاغ امر المى قيام مى فرمودند.

وقتى اين عبد در سنين كودكى بودم مادربزر گَ سالى يك الى دو دفعه از شاهرورد به طهر ان ان



 شيرين خود قصّه ها را ت تكرار كنند.

اصولاً قصه گوئى در فرهنگَ اير ان جاى بز رگى داشته و اغلب پادشاهان اير ان افر اد قصّه گو ر را



 مىكرد.







 و در اين زمان اكثر داستانهاى كفته شده حكايات امرى بودند.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { از خاطرات مالميرى }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (AY }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { بخش د - سه داستان اخلاقى }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { عя- } \\
& \text { - } 1 \text { - عشق پاک }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { هD - هو ش و سلوك كاتوليكها } \\
& \text { هو- حكايت فكاهى راجع به قيصر روم } \\
& \text { - } \Delta V \\
& \text { - }- \text { هـ } \\
& \text {-99- شروط نجات - قدرت تدبير }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ا } \\
& \text {-9Y } \\
& \text { سو- كاشى ترسو } \\
& \text { 4Y- } \\
& \text { هQ } \\
& \text { 9¢- رؤياى حضرت عباى } \\
& \text {-9V استعداد فر ا گرفتن علم }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 99- امانت و صداقت - داستان حاجى صديق } \\
& \text { فيلسوف شيطان -V. } \\
& \text { - جوان و پی } \\
& \text { - VY } \\
& \text {; زمينهاى روضه مبار كه }
\end{aligned}
$$

بخش ج - داستانهاى اقتباسى از كتب امرى چاپ شده

> جناب فيضى
> اديب طاهر زاده
> از كتاب تسليمو رضا
> از كتاب محبوب عالم
> عزيز الهَ سليمانى
> فيروزه ابر ار
> دكتر يونس افروخته
> جناب فروتن
> فناى محض -VY
> VQ - عبدالرحيم بشرويه
> -Vя استاد اسمعيل عبودّيت -VQ
> نبيل اعظم در زندان مصر
> اقبال سلاطين -VA
> - V9 - داستانى از حيات خال اكا اكبر
> جناب حاجى مير زا سيد محمّد
> • - داستان حمّام
> ا^1- فداكارى

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { צY- اولين مسافرخانه عگّا } \\
& \text { YV } \\
& \text { r^- از ازل و مشكين قلم } \\
& \text { حاجى ميرز احيدرعلى }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { • } \\
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { ميثاق نور الدين } \\
& \text { اr- ا- شيخ محمود عر اقى } \\
& \text { Y } \\
& \text { سr- بيت شير از } \\
& \text { بخش بش ب - حكايت اياز خاطرات دكتر ضياء بغدادى - تر جمه از عربى }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { צץ- النجاة فی الصدق }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { q- } \\
& \text { ا } \mu \text {. } \\
& \text { | } \\
& \text { HY - لباس شرقى } \\
& \text { K } \\
& \text { - Lf }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 4\% } \\
& \text { HV } \\
& \text { + FA - مواساة } \\
& \text { 49-49 امانت } \\
& \text { • - ايقان كامل } \\
& \text { اه } \\
& \text { - } \text { - لط } \\
& \text { - }- \text { زار م مقروض و با هوش } \\
& \text { - }{ }^{\text {- }}
\end{aligned}
$$

## فهرست مندرجات

مقدمه

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { بخش الف - داستانهاى بهائى - ارسالى توسط دوستان } \\
& \text { ا- به ياد ايادى عزيز امر الله جناب ابو القا القاسم فيضى الـا }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { حضرت عبدالبهاء } \\
& \text { خاطرات خليل اردكانى } \\
& \text { هوشنگ محمودى } \\
& \text { كامر ان صحيحى } \\
& \text { جناب فاضل اردكانى } \\
& \text { حضرت عبدالبهاء } \\
& \text { جناب فيضى } \\
& \text { كامر ان صحيحى } \\
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { اديب طاهر زاده } \\
& \text { ابو الفضل رحمانى } \\
& \text { جناب ذبيح } \\
& \text { ابوالفضل رحمانى } \\
& \text { دكتر ضياء بغدادى } \\
& \text { ابوالفضل رحمانى } \\
& \text { هوشنتَ زركريور } \\
& \text { جناب اشر اق خاورى } \\
& \text { ه- ايمان آوردن جناب ابوالفضائل } \\
& \text { 9- } 9 \text { - ایروسى حضرت عبد البهاء } \\
& \text { V } \\
& \text { ^- } \\
& \text { 9- مريض و دكتر ترك } \\
& \text { •1- چههار صفت } \\
& \text { | 11- نبيل و مالميرى صفت } \\
& \text { IT } \\
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& \text { If أ دكتر حيفا }
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> 19- شعر جناب فيضى
> IV

> 19- نقاب صورت
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> I- إ داستان ايمان درويش خندان
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Cover design by: Epiphany Graphics (www.epiphanygraphics.ca) About the cover: The intersecting lines of the star are representative of the intermingling and convergence of the nations. All Bahá'í temples have nine entrances, welcoming all humanity from every direction. It is representative of the oneness of religion, the religion God. Each point of the star contains a simplistic icon or symbol of a story within the book.

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# داستانهاى شيرين 

9
حكايات دلنشين

تهيّه و تنظـيم

مهنـدس عزيز روحانى


[^0]:    *Kursí is a traditional Iranian heating system. A charcoal heater is placed under a low table and a huge quilt is draped over the table with seats placed around the table. This serves as a favourite gathering place and the centre of activities on cold evenings.

[^1]:    (Jináb-i-Málmírí wrote a book of some one thousand pages during the time of Bahá'u'lláh.)

[^2]:    From a talk by Fírúzih Abrár at the 'Irfán Gathering, June 1997, Acuto, Italy

