

The following story is from the book

*The Central Figures*

# *The Báb*

*Volume One*



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An illustration of an elderly man with grey hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt with a decorative pattern on the chest and light blue trousers. He has his arm around a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, who is wearing a green t-shirt and blue pants. They are standing in a village with traditional round huts with conical thatched roofs. A large, leafy tree is on the right side of the scene. The background is a warm, golden-brown landscape under a pale sky.

# The Titles of the Báb

*Written by Kiser Barnes*

*Illustrated by Fahimeh Meidani-Sliney*

The celebration of the Declaration of the Báb was over, and the village had a festival glow. But the excitement Banji, now six years old, always felt for the declaration, “I am the Báb, the Gate of God,” was missing when he left the Bahá’í center.

Baba Onibayo, the grandfather, knew the boy was sad. He joined him.

“Baba, I’ve lost my title,” said Banji, feeling like he wanted to cry.

At his birth, Banji’s parents entitled him “Omasifa.” It meant, “The youngest child is the family’s glory.” He had grown up thinking this special name would, somehow, help him understand the Báb’s titles. He knew titles expressed rank and honors. He thought he would keep his forever. But yesterday his sister was born. She was now the youngest, the “Omasifa.”

“You can still learn many things about the Báb’s names,” Baba Onibayo said.

Somewhat glad his loss of title was making him think about the Báb in a new way, Banji asked, “Will you tell me all His titles?”

“There are so many,” Baba Onibayo said. “And they are so excellent no one can know them all. Tell me the ones you know.”

“He’s the Forerunner of the Ancient Beauty (Bahá’u’lláh), the Herald of Bahá’u’lláh, and the Great Announcement of the Bahá’í Revelation,” said Banji. “But these only say He prepared people for the coming of Bahá’u’lláh. Are there others?”

“Yes,” answered Baba Onibayo softly. “The Báb also has titles that reveal His highest station, His true greatness. These go with the teachings of the Oneness of the Prophets and Progressive Revelation. Will you recite some of these?”

Banji looked away thinking hard. He felt the eyes of the people who had gathered around on his face. Suddenly he declared: “He’s the Founder of a new religion. He’s the Revealer of the Cause of God. And He’s an independent Manifestation of God. Just like Bahá’u’lláh, Jesus, Muḥammad, and the other great Prophets.”

“Well done,” the proud grandfather cried. “These show His position among the Prophets. Since you are learning the Báb’s titles so well, from this day you shall be called ‘Omoladipo.’ Do you know what it means?”

“Thank you,” Banji answered, smiling brightly. “It means, ‘God used titles to help this child.’” ★

