

The following story is from the book

*The Central Figures*

# *The Báb*

*Volume One*



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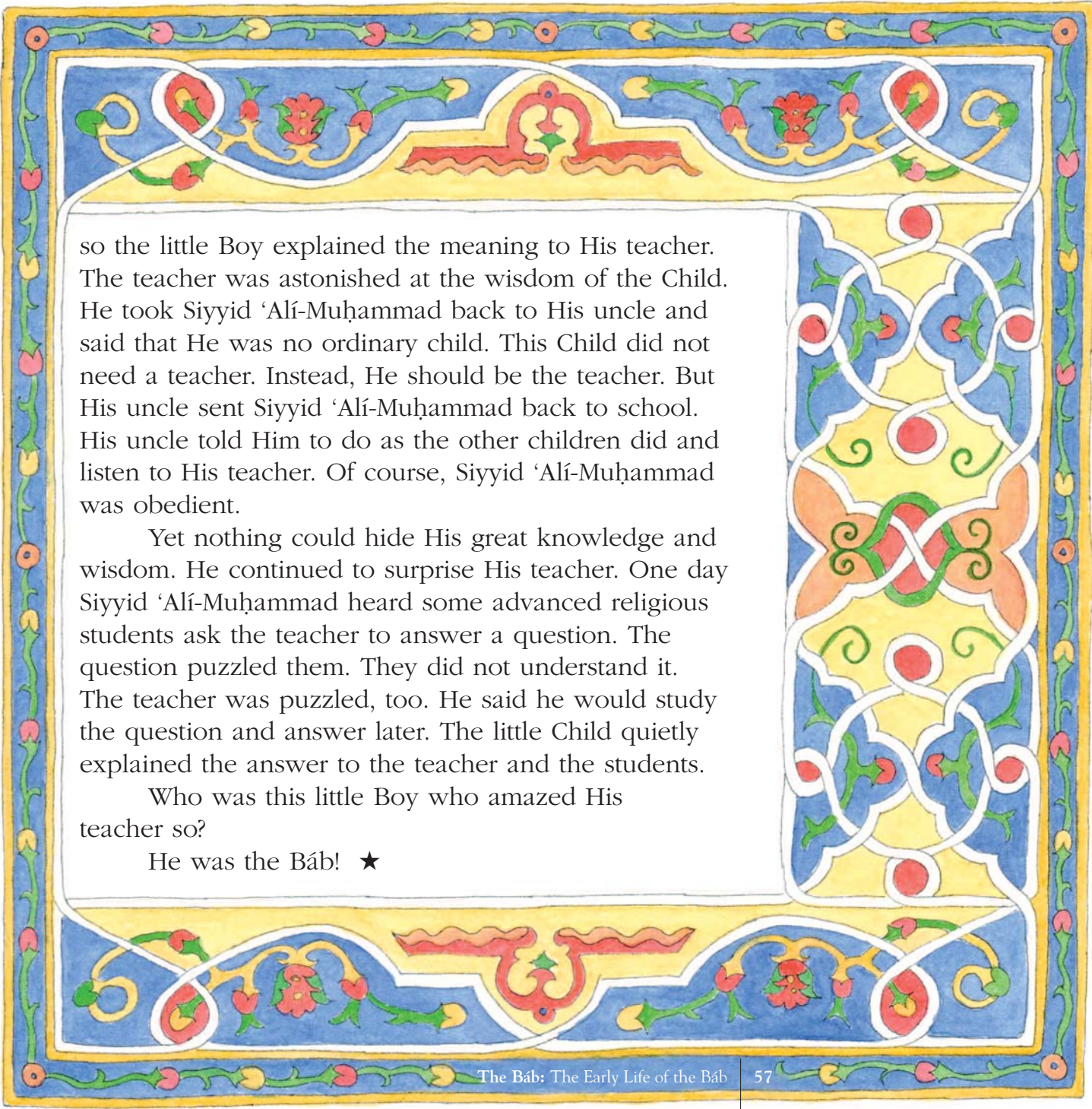


# The Student Who Taught His Teacher

*Written by Ann Gay Bishop • Illustrated by Jeannie Hunt*

In the far south of Persia in the lovely city of Shíráz, a beautiful baby Boy was born. He was named Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad. From the beginning, He was unusual. He didn't cry like most babies do. As He grew, He especially liked to spend time praying. He was gentle and calm. He never spoke crossly. He charmed everyone He met.

When Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad was five, He started school. At school the boys were taught to read and recite from the Holy Qur'án. The teacher read the first words to the little Boy and told Him to repeat the words. But the language of the Qur'án was different from the one He spoke at home. The Child asked what the words meant. The teacher pretended not to know,



so the little Boy explained the meaning to His teacher. The teacher was astonished at the wisdom of the Child. He took Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad back to His uncle and said that He was no ordinary child. This Child did not need a teacher. Instead, He should be the teacher. But His uncle sent Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad back to school. His uncle told Him to do as the other children did and listen to His teacher. Of course, Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad was obedient.

Yet nothing could hide His great knowledge and wisdom. He continued to surprise His teacher. One day Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad heard some advanced religious students ask the teacher to answer a question. The question puzzled them. They did not understand it. The teacher was puzzled, too. He said he would study the question and answer later. The little Child quietly explained the answer to the teacher and the students.

Who was this little Boy who amazed His teacher so?

He was the Báb! ★