

The following story is from the book

*The Central Figures*

# *The Báb*

*Volume One*



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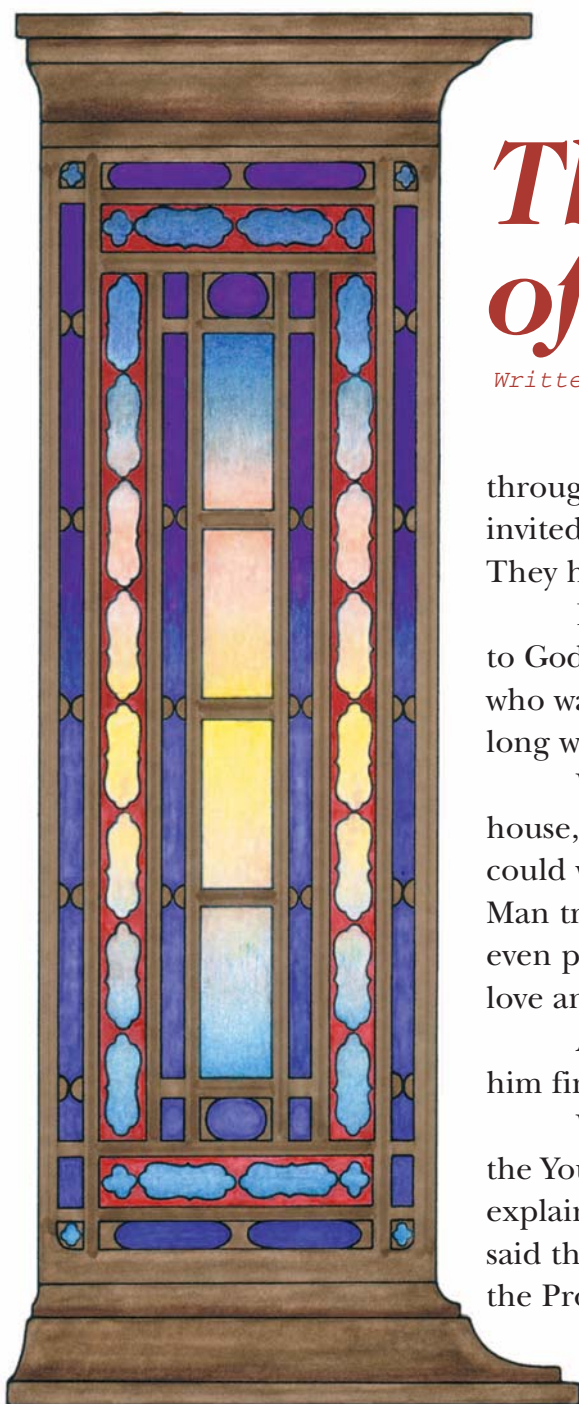
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# *The Declaration of the Báb*

*Written by Jacqueline Mehrabi*

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Mullá Ḥusayn was walking with a Young Man through the dusty streets of Shíráz, in Persia. He had been invited to the Youth's house, but he did not know why. They had just met outside the gates of the town.

Mullá Ḥusayn had spent 40 days fasting and praying to God, asking to be guided to the new Messenger of God, who was known as the Promised One. He had travelled a long way and still had not found Him.

When Mullá Ḥusayn reached the Young Man's house, a servant brought a bowl and a jug of water so they could wash before saying their evening prayer. The Young Man treated Mullá Ḥusayn with the greatest kindness. He even poured the water over His guest's hands as a sign of love and respect.

As he prayed, Mullá Ḥusayn again asked God to help him find the Promised One.

When Mullá Ḥusayn had finished saying his prayers, the Youth asked him if he had any questions. Mullá Ḥusayn explained that he was looking for the Promised One. He said that the Promised One would be from the family of the Prophet Muḥammad. He would be between 20 and

30 years old. His knowledge would come from God and He would know things without being told. He would be neither very tall nor very short, but in between. He would not smoke and would be physically perfect.

The Young Man said, “Behold, all these signs are manifest in Me!”

Mullá Ḥusayn was surprised at the Young Man’s words. And he still was not sure. But he had another test to try. He had chosen a difficult passage from the holy Qur’án that nobody had been able to understand properly before. He was going to ask whoever claimed to be the Promised One to tell him what the passage meant.

However, before Mullá Ḥusayn even asked his question, the Young Man began to answer it! He beautifully explained the meaning of the exact passage Mullá Ḥusayn had secretly chosen! As the Youth spoke, Mullá Ḥusayn knew in his heart that his prayers had been answered and his search was over. The Young Man in the room with him was the Promised One from God.

All through that night until the sun rose next morning, the Young Man continued to reveal wonderful verses from God. Mullá Ḥusayn was so happy he felt he was in heaven. He wanted to run out into the street and tell everyone in the world what he had found.

“O thou who art the first to believe in Me!” said the Young Man, His face shining with love. “Verily, I say, I am the Báb, the Gate of God. . . .” ★

