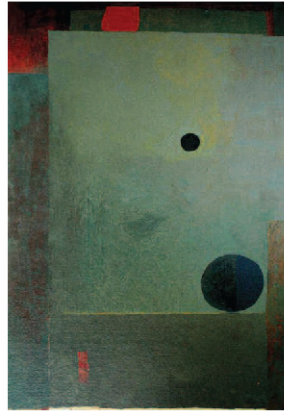


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures
The Báb
Volume Two



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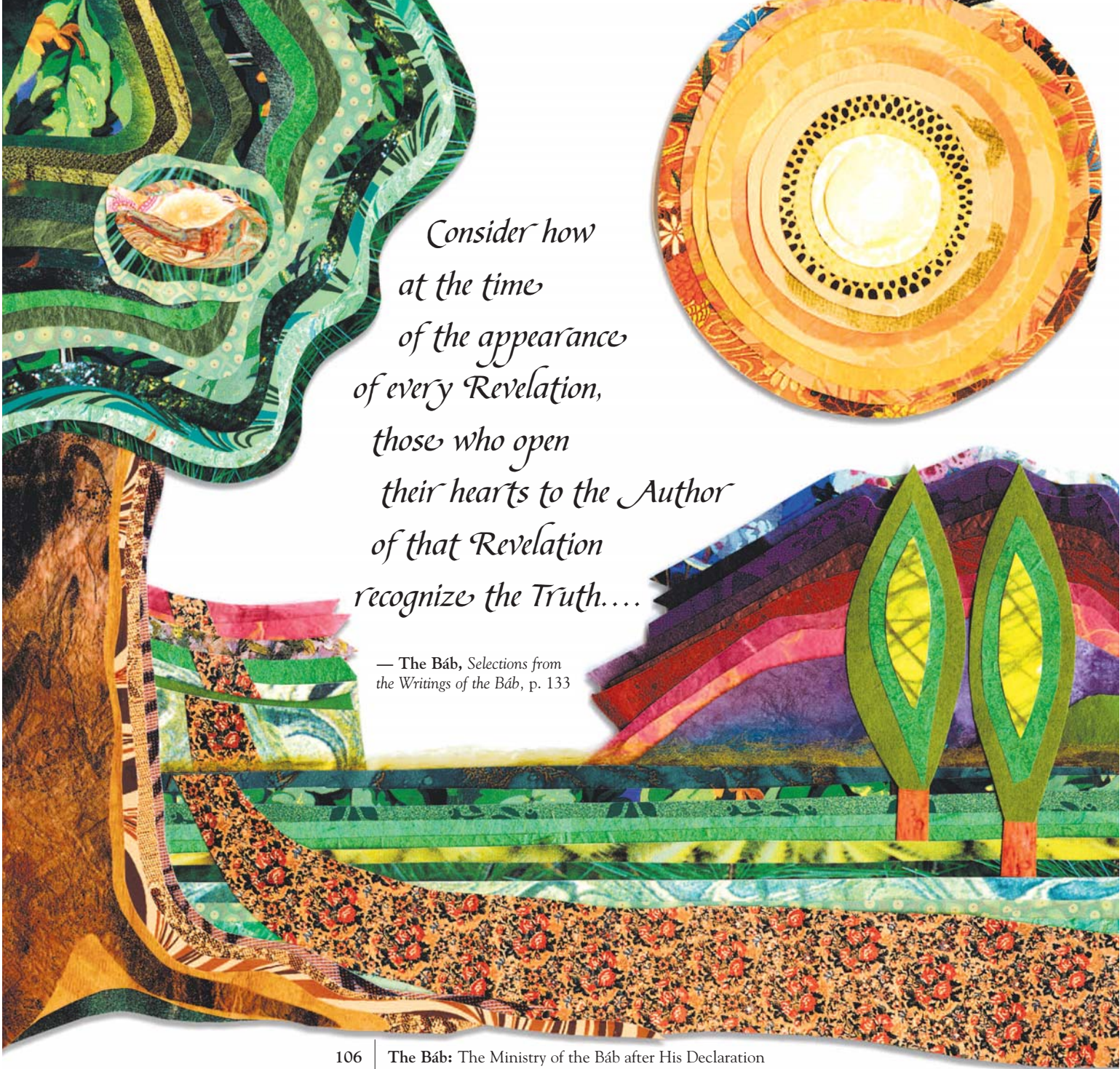
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*Consider how
at the time
of the appearance
of every Revelation,
those who open
their hearts to the Author
of that Revelation
recognize the Truth....*

— The Báb, *Selections from
the Writings of the Báb*, p. 133



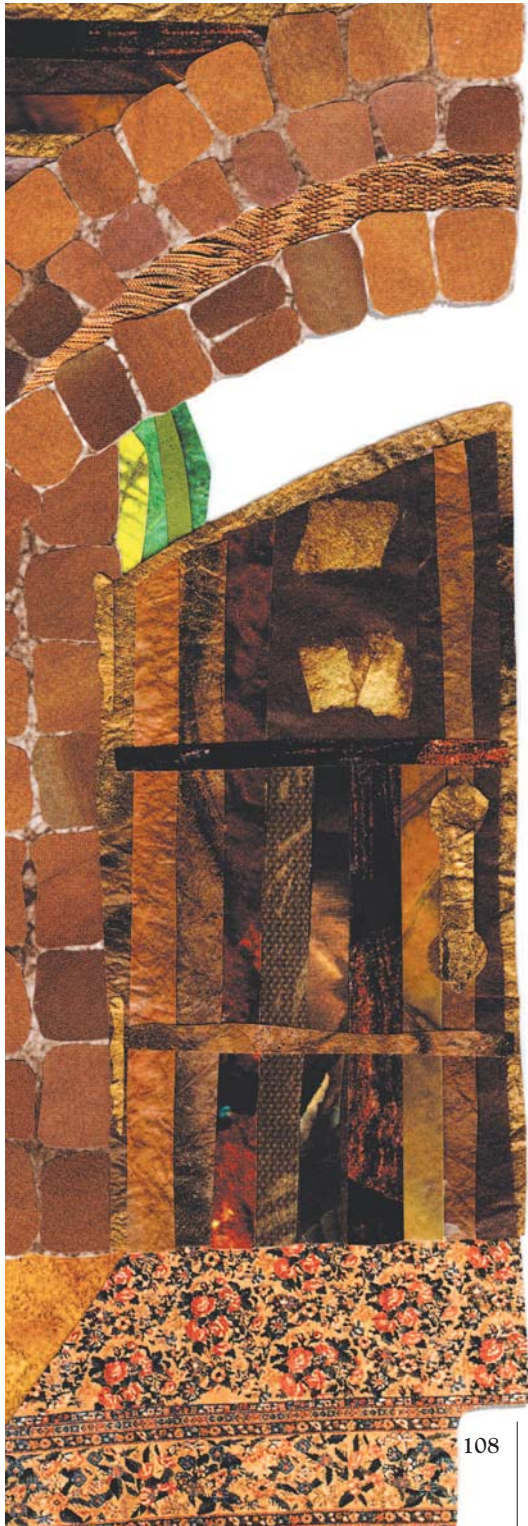
The Victorious Báb

*Retold by Lea Iverson
with William Iverson
Illustrated by Barbara Trauger*

“The Báb is coming! Let’s go and meet the Promised One as He enters our city! What brings Him here?” called the eager voices of the Bábís when they learned that the Báb was on His way to Tabríz.

The Bábís crowded at the city gate with their hearts full of hope. Guards blocked them and refused to let anyone leave the city to meet the Prisoner approaching in the distance.

One youth did not wait. He pushed through the crowd and escaped the soldiers. He ran for miles with all his strength. He didn’t stop until he reached the horsemen who were marching in front of the Báb.



“Who is that running barefoot toward us? Is he friend or enemy?” a soldier asked his companion.

“He’s just a boy. Don’t harm him. Let’s see what he wants from us,” replied the other.

The youth reached one of the horsemen, grabbed his clothing, and kissed the soldier’s boots.

In an outburst of happiness, the youth cried out to the soldiers, “You are the companions of my Well-Beloved. I cherish you as the apple of my eye!”

The horsemen were amazed at the boy’s behavior. Never had they seen such devotion and love. The boy had run miles in the hot sun, barefooted and without any fear for his life. He had thrown himself in front of moving horses to catch sight of their Prisoner. The horsemen agreed to let the youth see the Báb. As soon as the boy saw the face of his Beloved, he let out a cry of joy, fell to the ground, and sobbed out loud. The Báb got off His horse and picked up the boy in His arms. The Báb wiped away his tears and calmed him with gentle words. Never had the boy felt such contentment!

The other Bábís were still held behind the city gate, waiting for the Báb to arrive.

By this time, hundreds of people had come out of their homes and shops to catch a glimpse of the Báb. They were mysteriously drawn to Him.

Groups of citizens called out, “God is Most Great!” People prayed out loud to God for blessings from the Báb. Others got down on their knees. The gathering grew bigger and more excited. Above

all the noise, a city guard shouted this warning: *Whoever tries to get near the Báb, all his belongings will be taken away and he will be thrown into prison!*

The Báb was brought into a house where He would be a prisoner for 40 days. Soldiers stood guard around the Báb's prison house day and night. None of the Bábís were allowed to see the Báb, talk with Him, or receive His blessings. They were so disappointed because they longed to be with Him! Only two Bábís, Siyyid Ḥasan and his brother, were allowed to visit the Báb.

One day a Bábí merchant and his friend desired to see the Báb. Friends warned them not to go near the Báb's house. They could be arrested or even be put to death. But the men would not listen. Bravely they went up to the house of the Báb and were immediately arrested by the guards. Siyyid Ḥasan was leaving the Báb's presence when he heard the uproar in front of the house and rushed forward.

Siyyid Ḥasan spoke these words to the guards, "I am commanded by the Siyyid-i-Báb to convey to you this message: 'Suffer these visitors to enter, inasmuch as I Myself have invited them to meet Me.'"

The guards were shocked and silenced. The Báb later explained to His guests that no one could change His wishes. The two men visited the Báb for more than two hours that day. They returned many times with no problem from any guard or soldier!

Even though the Báb was a prisoner, held in a house with soldiers all around Him, He was a Messenger of God. The Báb could do as He wished. ★

