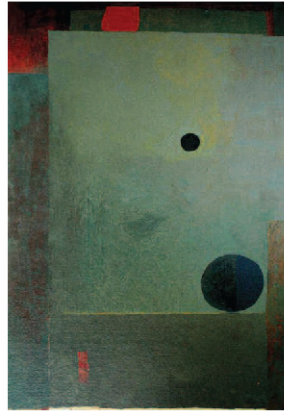


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures
The Báb
Volume Two



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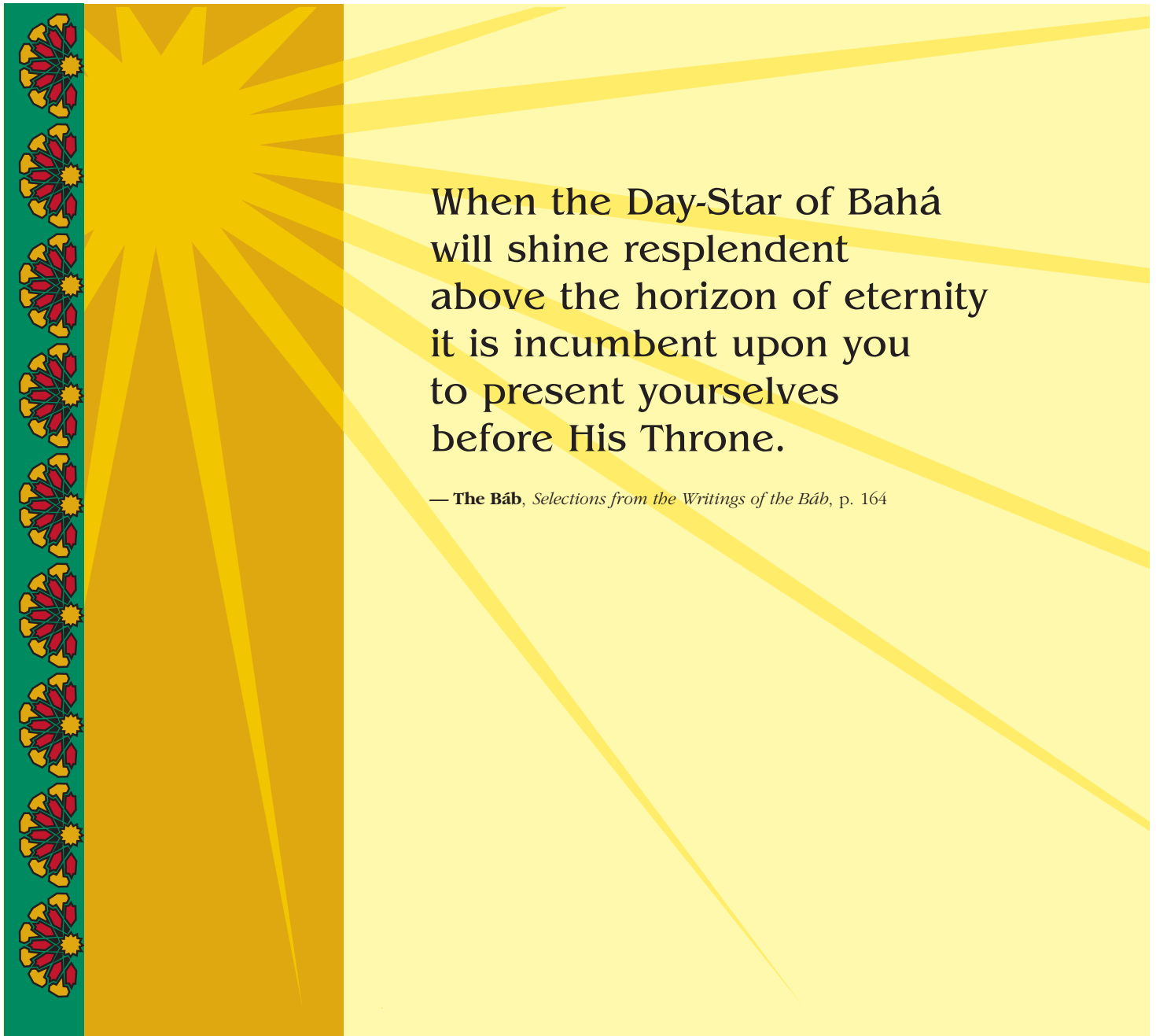
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When the Day-Star of Bahá
will shine resplendent
above the horizon of eternity
it is incumbent upon you
to present yourselves
before His Throne.

— **The Báb**, *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, p. 164


The Twice- BLESSED Scribe

*Written by Gail Radley
Illustrated by Martine Hubbard-Helwig*

An eager group of disciples gathered around their teacher. Siyyid Kázim told them that the Qá'im, the Holy One from God promised in the Qur'án, might be among them, waiting to be discovered. Discovering this Messenger of God would be like finding buried treasure. Messengers do not announce Themselves until God tells Them the time is right. And the time would not be right until 18 people had found Him on their own.

He is young, medium in height, and does not smoke, Siyyid Kázim explained. His vast knowledge comes from God, not from some human teacher. He is devoted to God.






The disciples gazed at Siyyid Kázim in wonder. These signs are all present in you, Siyyid Kázim, exclaimed one of the disciples.

Siyyid Kázim was not happy to be mistaken for a Messenger of God—he knew he was merely a follower. Why didn't his disciples understand that? Still, it was hard for some of those who knew and loved Siyyid Kázim to let go of the idea. Shaykh Ḥasan, a humble scribe, wondered about Siyyid Kázim too. But since Siyyid Kázim denied it, Shaykh Ḥasan prayed to be shown the truth.

One morning near dawn, Siyyid Kázim called for Shaykh Ḥasan. A highly esteemed and distinguished Person has arrived, he told Shaykh Ḥasan. We must both visit Him.

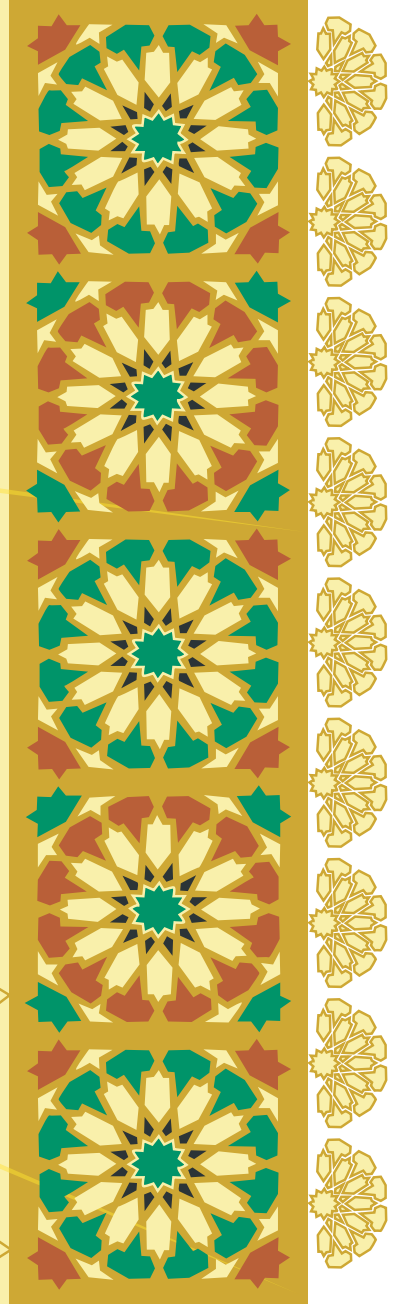
Light was breaking all over the city as they walked to the mysterious Person's house. The Young Man, not surprised to have visitors so early, invited them in. During their brief visit, Shaykh Ḥasan noticed the great respect his teacher showed this Youth. Even more amazing was the Youth's loving-kindness and humble dignity.

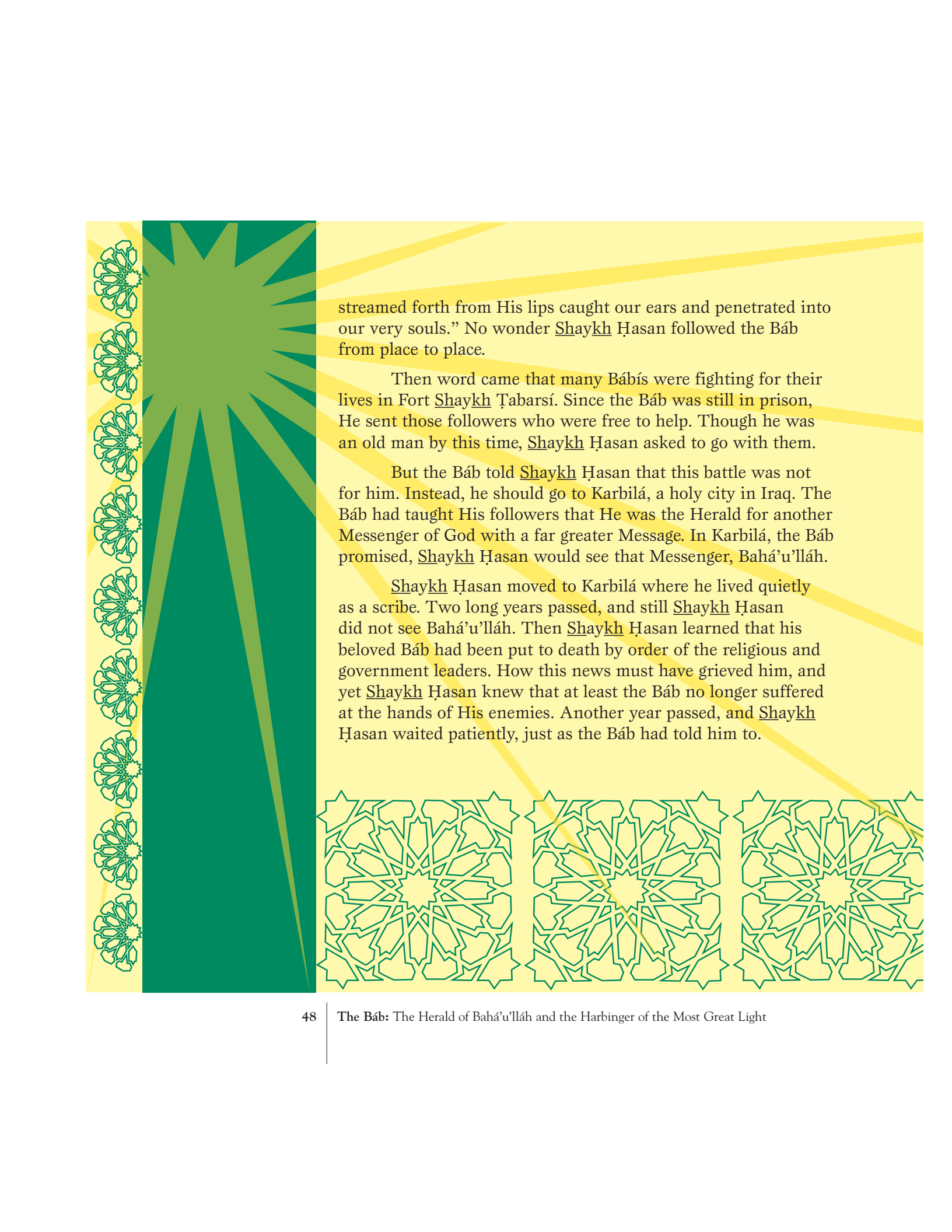


Another day, Shaykh Ḥasan noticed the Youth quietly listening as Siyyid Kázim spoke to his disciples. As soon as Siyyid Kázim noticed his Guest, he fell silent. “What more shall I say?” asked Siyyid Kázim turning to his Guest. “Lo, the Truth is more manifest than the ray of light that has fallen upon that lap!”

Shaykh Ḥasan was filled with wonder. Why did no one else understand what Siyyid Kázim meant? Or was Shaykh Ḥasan himself still confused? He wanted to ask Siyyid Kázim, but, strangely, found he could not. Speaking directly to the Youth was impossible — something stopped Shaykh Ḥasan every time he tried. But even after the Youth had left the city, Shaykh Ḥasan could not stop thinking of Him. When he learned that the Youth had announced that He was the Báb, the Promised Qá’im, Shaykh Ḥasan knew he had found his heart’s desire.

Shaykh Ḥasan hurried to the Báb’s prison to serve as His secretary. How Shaykh Ḥasan’s heart must have soared to hear the Báb reveal His Message! “The melody of His chanting,” Shaykh Ḥasan said, “the rhythmic flow of the verses which





streamed forth from His lips caught our ears and penetrated into our very souls.” No wonder Shaykh Ḥasan followed the Báb from place to place.

Then word came that many Bábís were fighting for their lives in Fort Shaykh Ṭabarsí. Since the Báb was still in prison, He sent those followers who were free to help. Though he was an old man by this time, Shaykh Ḥasan asked to go with them.

But the Báb told Shaykh Ḥasan that this battle was not for him. Instead, he should go to Karbilá, a holy city in Iraq. The Báb had taught His followers that He was the Herald for another Messenger of God with a far greater Message. In Karbilá, the Báb promised, Shaykh Ḥasan would see that Messenger, Bahá’u’lláh.

Shaykh Ḥasan moved to Karbilá where he lived quietly as a scribe. Two long years passed, and still Shaykh Ḥasan did not see Bahá’u’lláh. Then Shaykh Ḥasan learned that his beloved Báb had been put to death by order of the religious and government leaders. How this news must have grieved him, and yet Shaykh Ḥasan knew that at least the Báb no longer suffered at the hands of His enemies. Another year passed, and Shaykh Ḥasan waited patiently, just as the Báb had told him to.

One day as he passed by a shrine, Shaykh Ḥasan saw Him. He knew at once that this was the One Whose coming the Báb had foretold. He could see it in “the beauty of that face . . . His penetrating glance . . . the majesty of His bearing, the sweetness of His smile.”

Bahá'u'lláh went to Shaykh Ḥasan, took his hand, and walked with him. “Praised be to God,” Bahá'u'lláh said, “that you have remained in Karbilá, and have beheld with your own eyes the countenance of the promised Ḥusayn [Bahá'u'lláh].”

Overjoyed, Shaykh Ḥasan wanted to shout the news to everyone.

“Not yet,” Bahá'u'lláh whispered, “the appointed Hour is approaching. It has not yet struck. Rest assured and be patient.”

The Báb, Bahá'u'lláh's Herald, had prepared the world for the coming of the Promised One of all ages. To Shaykh Ḥasan, the Báb gave the rare blessing of being in His Presence and serving Him. Then the Báb prepared the way for Shaykh Ḥasan to meet that Promised One. Few have the blessing of meeting a Messenger of God face to face; Shaykh Ḥasan, the humble scribe, was twice blessed. ★

