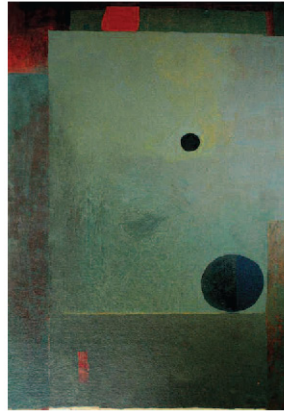


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures
The Báb
Volume Two



These stories are lovingly provided to download as a convenience to teachers or communities otherwise unable to acquire the book. Each book in this storybook series also includes an appendix with questions for discussion and reflection, a glossary of words and phrases used in the stories, a bibliography, and an index.

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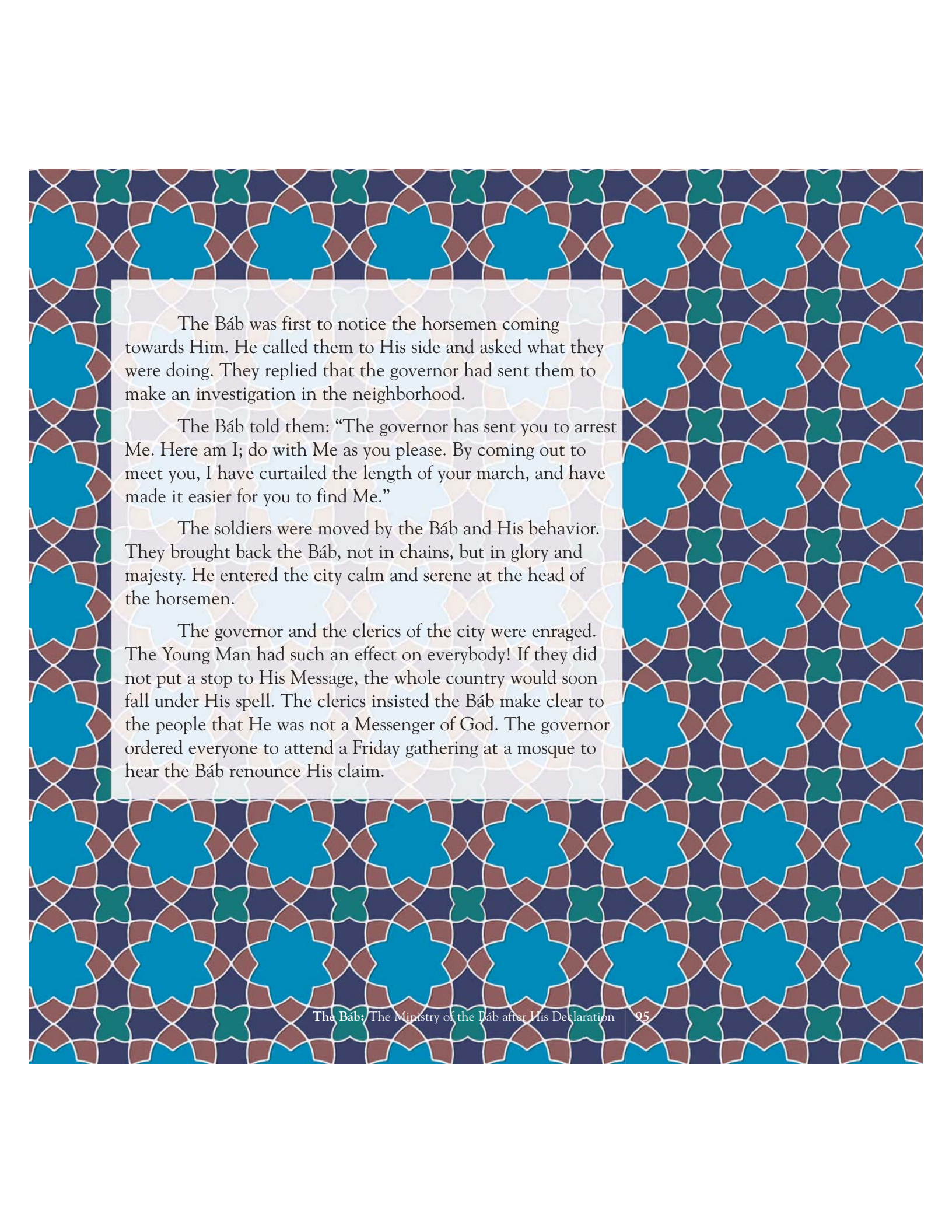


The Sermon at the Mosque

*Written by Suzan Nadimi
Illustrated by Pepper P. Oldziej*

The Báb was only 26 years old when He was chosen to deliver God's Message. He had to make everyone ready for the coming of the Promised One of all ages.

Soon, the Báb had a number of followers helping Him in His work. The governor in Shíráz grew alarmed. He sent a group of soldiers to capture the Báb, Who was returning from His pilgrimage to Mecca. The governor wanted to bring Him into the city in chains.

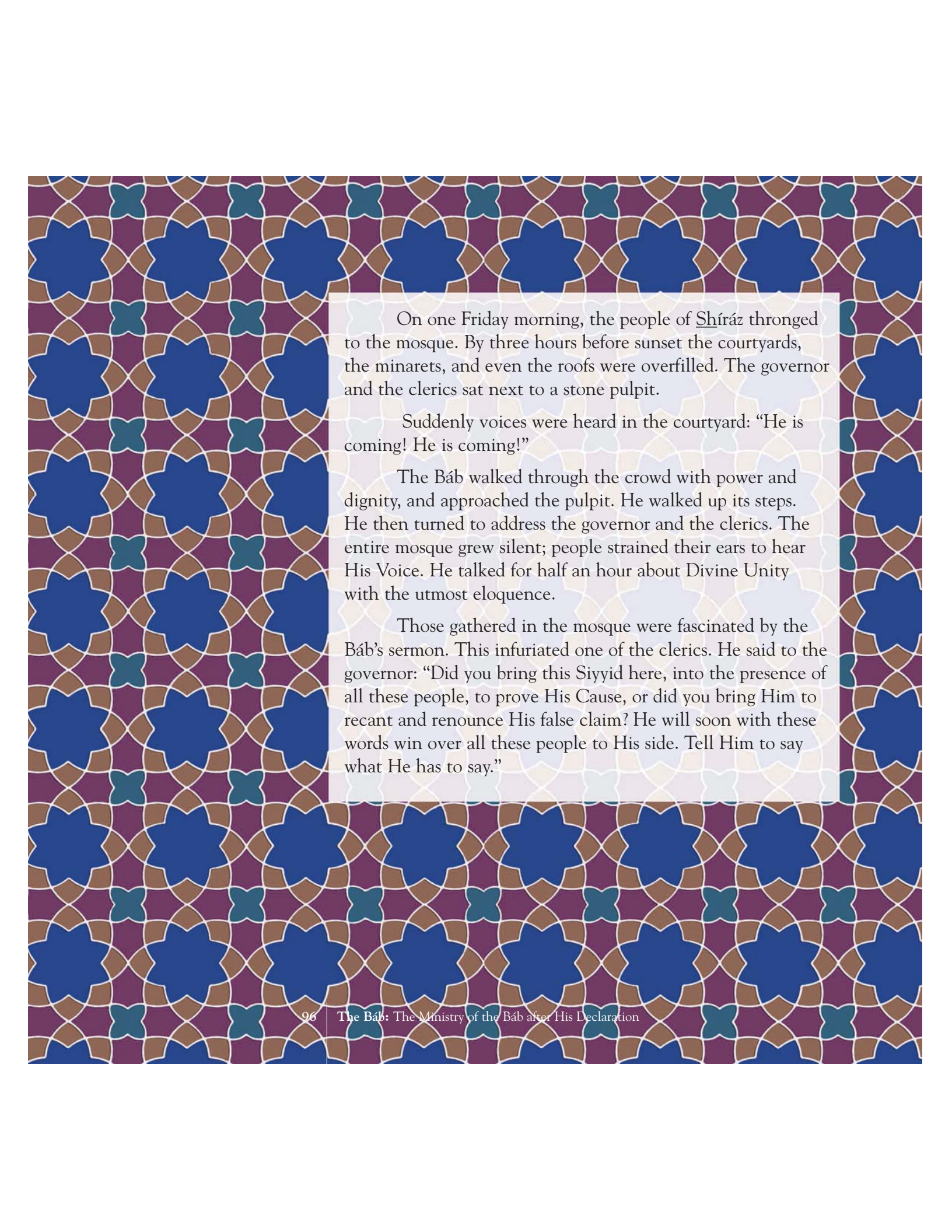


The Báb was first to notice the horsemen coming towards Him. He called them to His side and asked what they were doing. They replied that the governor had sent them to make an investigation in the neighborhood.

The Báb told them: "The governor has sent you to arrest Me. Here am I; do with Me as you please. By coming out to meet you, I have curtailed the length of your march, and have made it easier for you to find Me."

The soldiers were moved by the Báb and His behavior. They brought back the Báb, not in chains, but in glory and majesty. He entered the city calm and serene at the head of the horsemen.

The governor and the clerics of the city were enraged. The Young Man had such an effect on everybody! If they did not put a stop to His Message, the whole country would soon fall under His spell. The clerics insisted the Báb make clear to the people that He was not a Messenger of God. The governor ordered everyone to attend a Friday gathering at a mosque to hear the Báb renounce His claim.

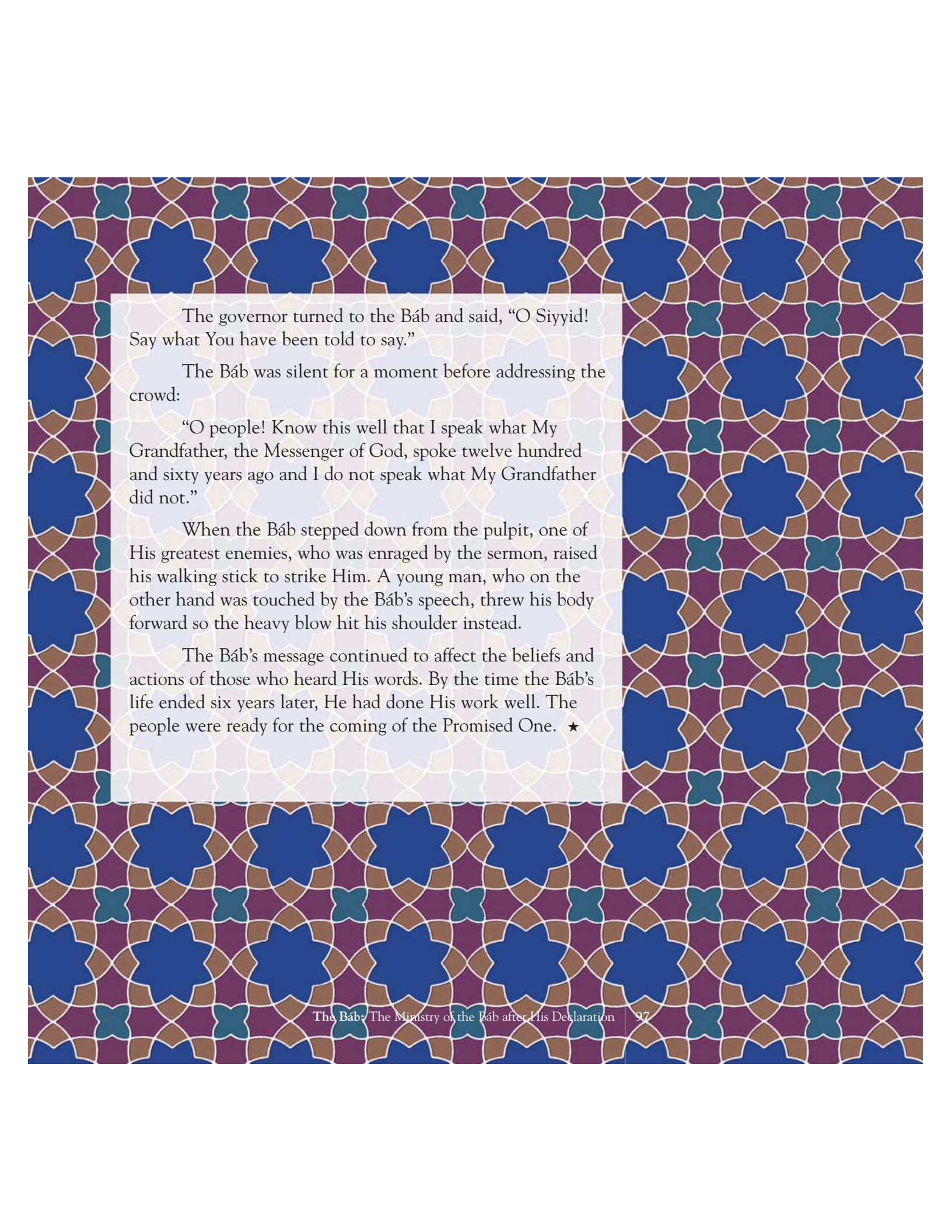


On one Friday morning, the people of Shíráz thronged to the mosque. By three hours before sunset the courtyards, the minarets, and even the roofs were overfilled. The governor and the clerics sat next to a stone pulpit.

Suddenly voices were heard in the courtyard: “He is coming! He is coming!”

The Báb walked through the crowd with power and dignity, and approached the pulpit. He walked up its steps. He then turned to address the governor and the clerics. The entire mosque grew silent; people strained their ears to hear His Voice. He talked for half an hour about Divine Unity with the utmost eloquence.

Those gathered in the mosque were fascinated by the Báb’s sermon. This infuriated one of the clerics. He said to the governor: “Did you bring this Siyyid here, into the presence of all these people, to prove His Cause, or did you bring Him to recant and renounce His false claim? He will soon with these words win over all these people to His side. Tell Him to say what He has to say.”



The governor turned to the Báb and said, “O Siyyid! Say what You have been told to say.”

The Báb was silent for a moment before addressing the crowd:

“O people! Know this well that I speak what My Grandfather, the Messenger of God, spoke twelve hundred and sixty years ago and I do not speak what My Grandfather did not.”

When the Báb stepped down from the pulpit, one of His greatest enemies, who was enraged by the sermon, raised his walking stick to strike Him. A young man, who on the other hand was touched by the Báb’s speech, threw his body forward so the heavy blow hit his shoulder instead.

The Báb’s message continued to affect the beliefs and actions of those who heard His words. By the time the Báb’s life ended six years later, He had done His work well. The people were ready for the coming of the Promised One. ★