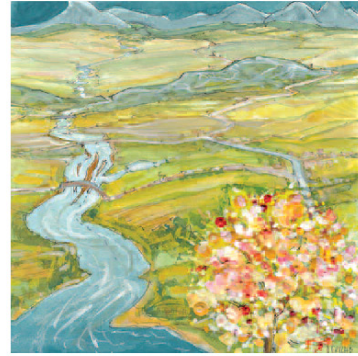


The following story is from the book

*The Central Figures*

*Bahá'u'lláh*

*Volume Two*



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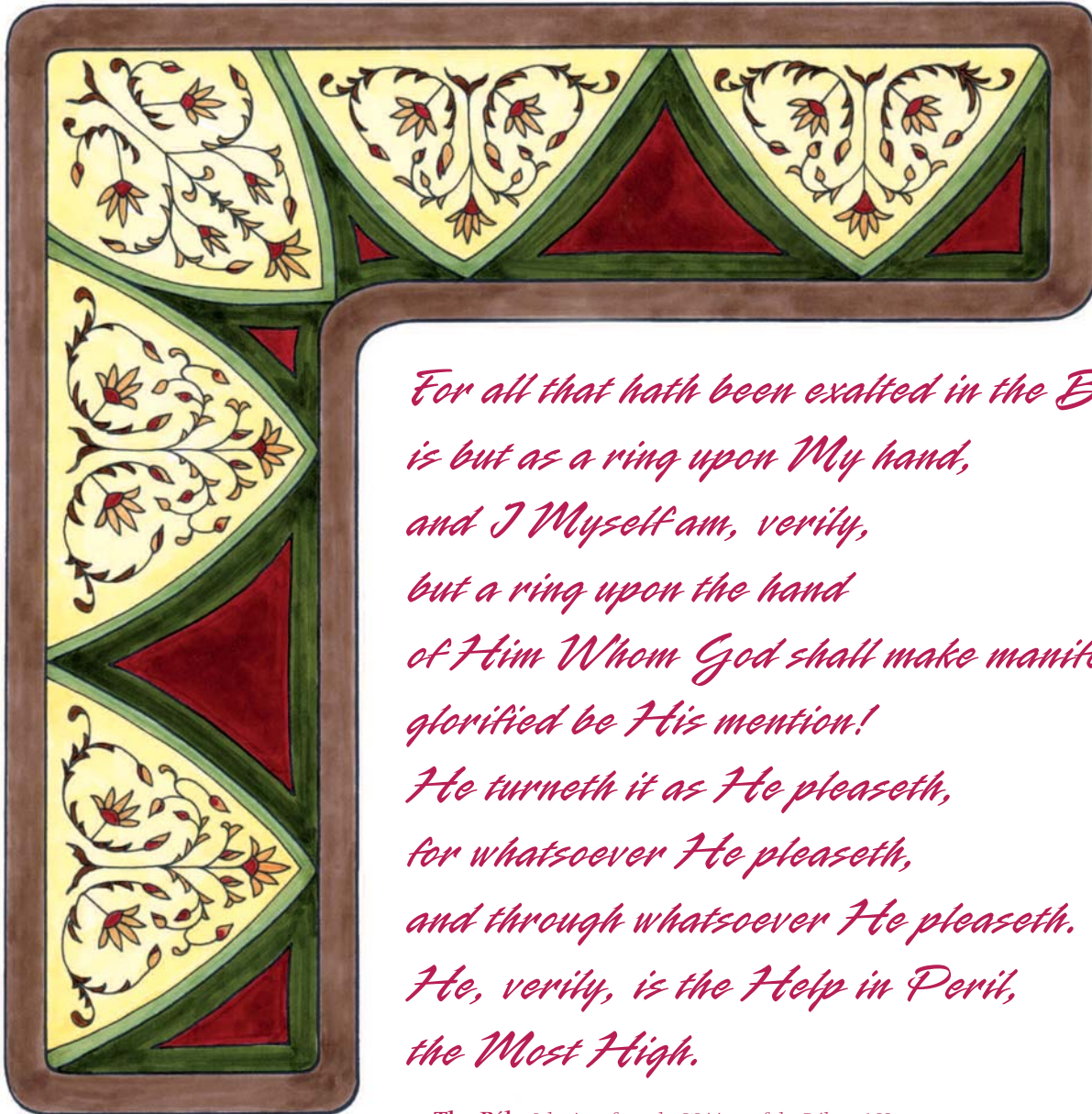
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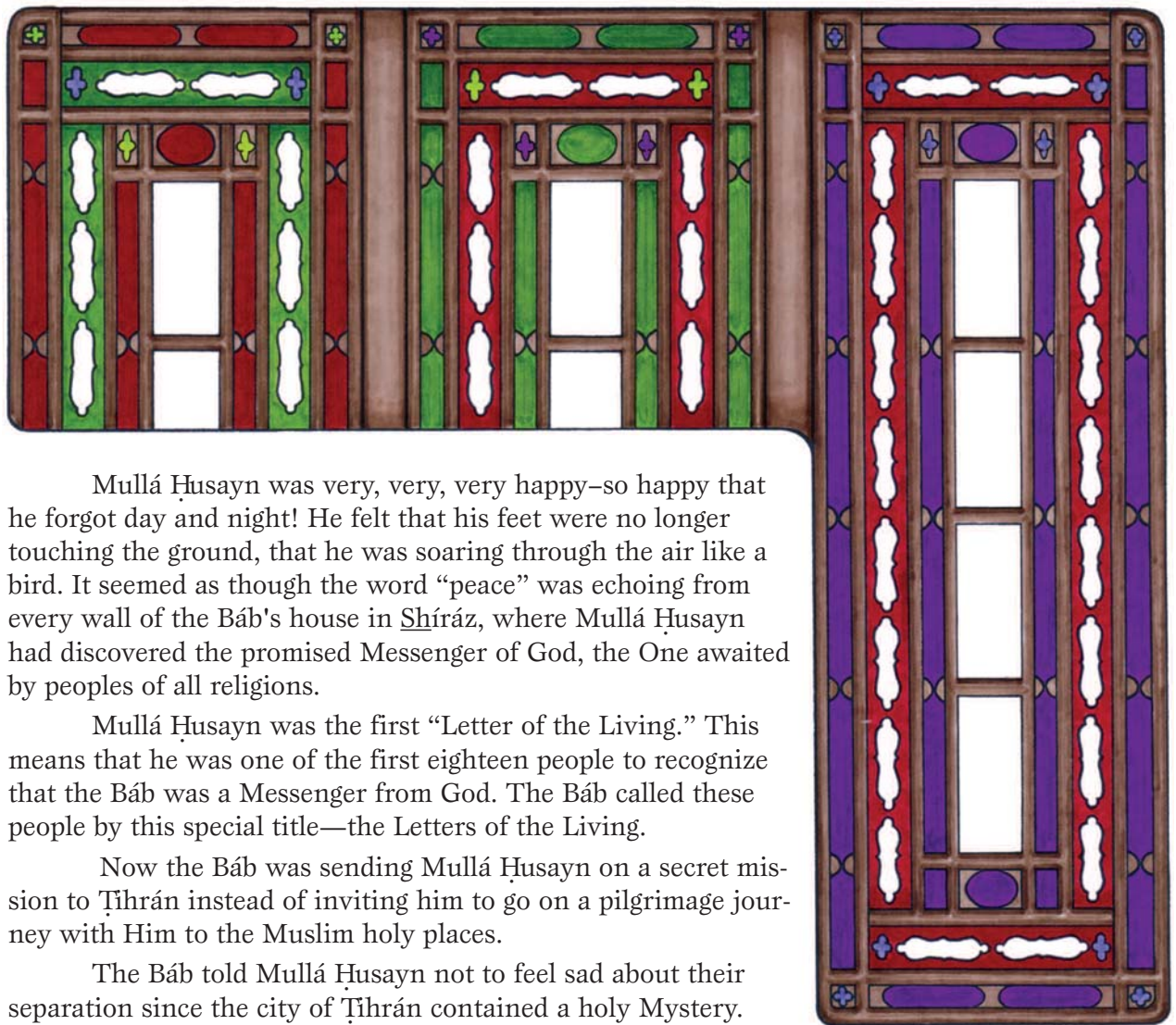
  
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*For all that hath been exalted in the Bayán  
is but as a ring upon My hand,  
and I Myself am, verily,  
but a ring upon the hand  
of Him Whom God shall make manifest -  
glorified be His mention!  
He turneth it as He pleaseth,  
for whatsoever He pleaseth,  
and through whatsoever He pleaseth.  
He, verily, is the Help in Peril,  
the Most High.*

— The Báb, *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, p. 168

# The Mysterious Visit



Mullá Ḥusayn was very, very, very happy—so happy that he forgot day and night! He felt that his feet were no longer touching the ground, that he was soaring through the air like a bird. It seemed as though the word “peace” was echoing from every wall of the Báb's house in Shíráz, where Mullá Ḥusayn had discovered the promised Messenger of God, the One awaited by peoples of all religions.

Mullá Ḥusayn was the first “Letter of the Living.” This means that he was one of the first eighteen people to recognize that the Báb was a Messenger from God. The Báb called these people by this special title—the Letters of the Living.

Now the Báb was sending Mullá Ḥusayn on a secret mission to Ṭíhrán instead of inviting him to go on a pilgrimage journey with Him to the Muslim holy places.

The Báb told Mullá Ḥusayn not to feel sad about their separation since the city of Ṭíhrán contained a holy Mystery.

*Written by Anne Breneman  
Illustrated by Marilyn Lindsley*



When the secret became known, the Báb said, the entire earth would become a paradise! The Báb told Mullá Ḥusayn, “The essence of power is now dwelling in you, and the company of His chosen angels revolves around you.”

Mullá Ḥusayn's heart was cheered to hear these comforting words of the Báb: “His almighty arms will surround you, and His unfailing Spirit will ever continue to guide your steps. He that loves you, loves God; and whoever opposes you, has opposed God. Whoso befriends you, him will God befriend; and whoso rejects you, him will God reject.”

With the Báb's words ringing in his ears, Mullá Ḥusayn was now ready to depart on his special mission to Ṭīhrán. He had uncovered one “Mystery” in Shíráz, in the form of the Báb. Now the Báb gave Mullá Ḥusayn clues to yet another “Mystery” awaiting him in Ṭīhrán! Who could this be?

On his way to Ṭīhrán, Mullá Ḥusayn passed through Iṣfáhán and began to share the exciting news about the Promised One of God, the Báb.

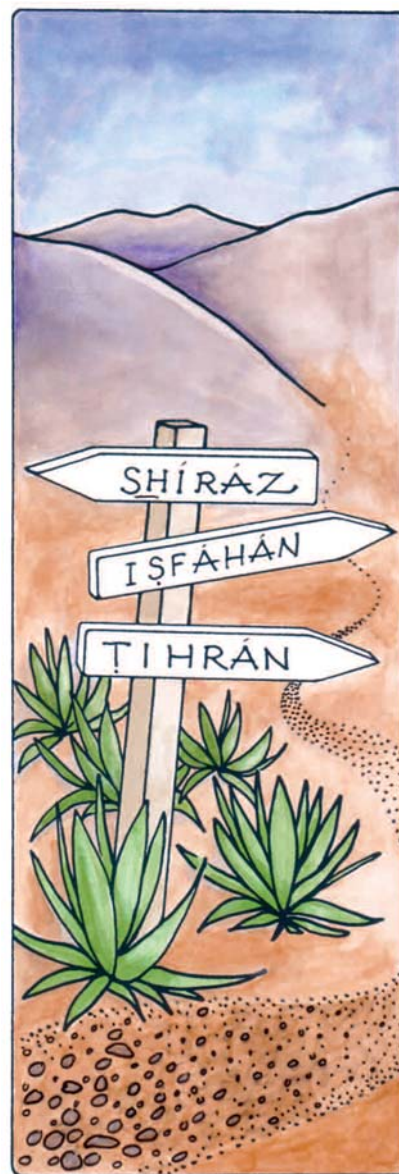
The first one to hear the news and accept the Báb was a young man who sifted wheat. He loved the Báb so much that he later gave his life while standing up for this truth. His name was Mullá Ja‘far.

But others in Iṣfáhán became angry when they heard what Mullá Ḥusayn was telling the people of their city. Many of the religious leaders were afraid they would lose their power if people followed the Báb’s teachings. But Mullá Ḥusayn remembered what the Báb had promised, that God would be with him and would guide every step he took. He happily continued his journey.

When Mullá Ḥusayn arrived in Ṭīhrán, he didn’t know where to go or how to find the secret hidden within this ancient city. Again, he recalled how God had led him to Shíráz to find the Báb. He was certain he would be guided in this mission as well. He decided to stay in a madrisih, a type of college for study of the Qur’án, the holy book of Islám.

Soon he met the headmaster of the madrisih and tried to share the news of the Báb’s message of a new Day for all humanity. The headmaster did not want to listen and said that Mullá Ḥusayn should leave at once!

Again Mullá Ḥusayn remembered the Báb’s words and took courage. He treated the headmaster respectfully and assured him that he wouldn’t be staying long at the madrisih, nor would he disturb the classes. To keep his word, Mullá Ḥusayn left early in the morning and returned to his room after sunset. All day long he walked about Ṭīhrán searching for news of the mysterious Person the Báb had sent him to find.





One evening at midnight Mullá Ḥusayn heard a knock at the door of his room. He opened the door and found a student of the madrisih. The young man came in eagerly and poured his heart out to Mullá Ḥusayn.

“My name is Mullá Muḥammad-i-Mu‘allim. My home is Núr, in the province of Mázindarán.”

The student told him that he overheard Mullá Ḥusayn’s conversation with the headmaster. When he heard how unkindly the headmaster spoke to Mullá Ḥusayn, and saw what a shining face and courteous manner Mullá Ḥusayn showed to the headmaster, Mullá Muḥammad felt with all his heart that he must meet this stranger!

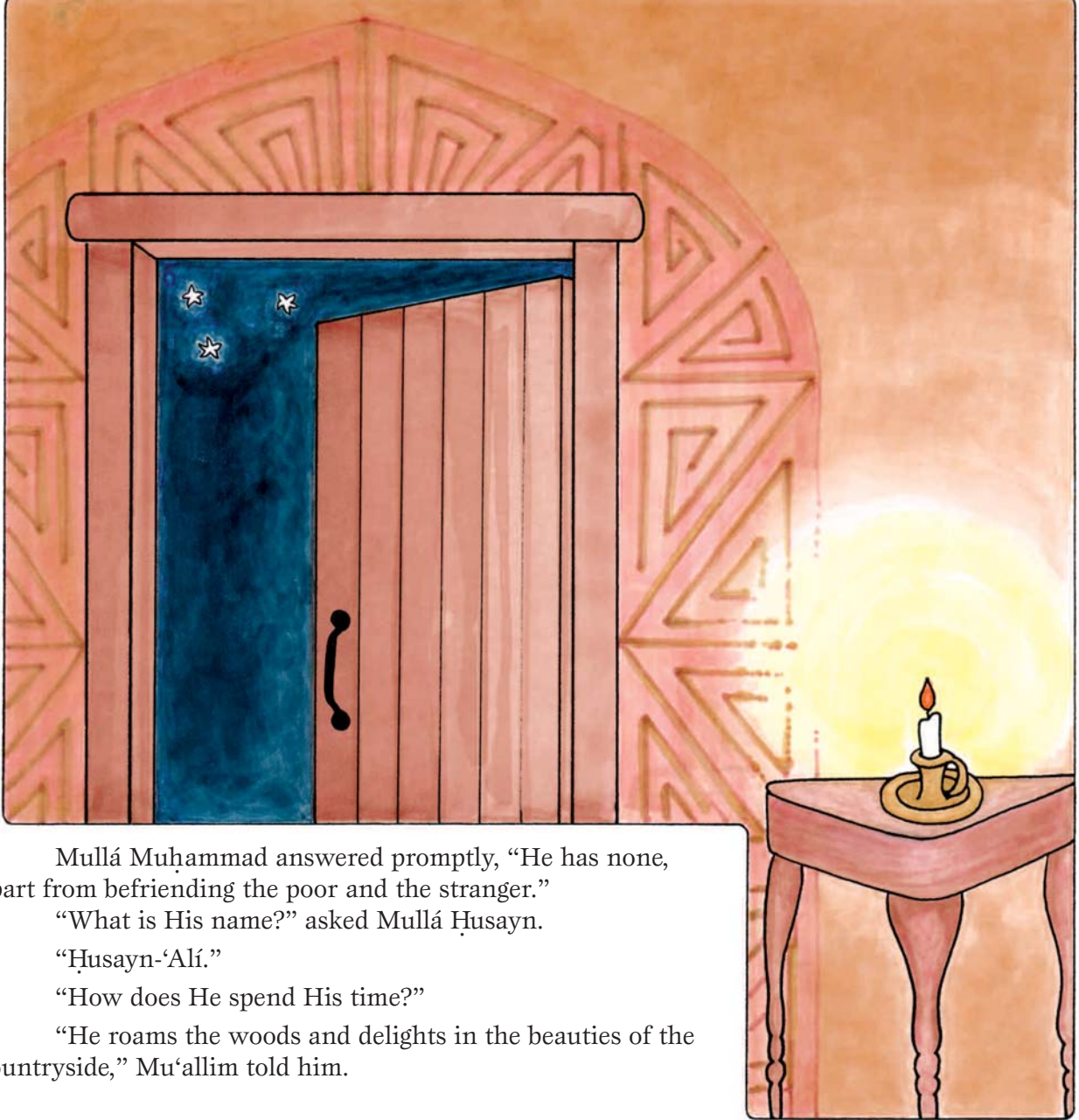
The young man’s eyes filled with tears as Mullá Ḥusayn spoke. It was as though he could feel the “essence of power” which the Báb said would be within Mullá Ḥusayn.

When Mullá Ḥusayn learned that the student was from Núr he began to inquire about a noble family of Núr and one of its members in particular.

“Tell me, is there today among the family of the late Mírzá Buzurg-i-Núrí, who was so renowned for his character, his charm, and artistic and intellectual attainments, anyone who has proved himself capable of maintaining the high traditions of that illustrious house?”

When Mullá Muḥammad answered “Yes,” Mullá Ḥusayn grew very excited. The young man said, “One has distinguished Himself by the very traits which characterized His father. By His virtuous life, His high attainments, His loving-kindness and liberality, He has proved Himself a noble descendant of a noble father.”

Mullá Ḥusayn could hardly hold back his feelings. Could this be the Mystery of Ṭihrán Whom the Báb sent him to find? He asked, “What is His occupation?”



Mullá Muḥammad answered promptly, “He has none, apart from befriending the poor and the stranger.”  
“What is His name?” asked Mullá Ḥusayn.  
“Ḥusayn-‘Alí.”  
“How does He spend His time?”  
“He roams the woods and delights in the beauties of the countryside,” Mu‘allim told him.



“What is His age?”

“Eight and twenty,” said the student in wonder.

Mullá Ḥusayn’s face was beaming with joy, much to Mullá Muḥammad’s surprise. Mullá Ḥusayn asked whether he met Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí often. When the student said that he went to his home frequently, Mullá Ḥusayn picked up a scroll wrapped in a piece of cloth and asked him if he would hand it to Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí the next day at the hour of dawn.

The young man agreed to do what Mullá Ḥusayn asked as he took the scroll carefully. He still wondered who this visitor was and why he had come to Ṭīhrán. Why did Mullá Ḥusayn become so excited when he heard of Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí?

The next morning at daybreak, Mullá Muḥammad, true to his word, took the scroll to the house of Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí. His brother, Mírzá Músá, met Mullá Muḥammad at the door, received the scroll, and gave it to Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí, Who warmly welcomed the student.



As Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí unfolded the scroll He began to read passages from it aloud. He turned to His brother and asked, “Músá, what have you to say?”

Then He spoke about the wonderful scroll from the Báb:

“Verily I say, whoso believes in the Qur’án and recognizes its divine origin and yet hesitates, though it be for a moment, to admit that these soul-stirring words are endowed with the same regenerating power, has most assuredly erred in his judgement and has strayed far from the path of justice.”

Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí asked Mullá Muḥammad to take a gift to Mullá Ḥusayn. It was a loaf of Russian sugar and a package of tea. He also asked the student to convey His love and appreciation to Mullá Ḥusayn.

The young man rushed back to the madrisih to tell Mullá Ḥusayn about the visit and to give him the gift and message. Mullá Muḥammad was again amazed when Mullá Ḥusayn jumped to his feet, reverently took the gift and kissed it. Then he embraced Mu‘allim, kissed his eyes, and exclaimed, “My dear friend! May God make you as happy as you have made me this day!”

Mullá Muḥammad wondered why Mullá Ḥusayn was so glad to receive such an ordinary gift from Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí. What kind of bond did they share? They had not even met! He couldn’t solve this puzzle, but his heart was drawn to the spirit of Mullá Ḥusayn.

Mullá Ḥusayn had discovered the Mystery in Ṭihrán. But it was not time for others to know that Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí was another great Manifestation of God Who would become known as “Bahá’u’lláh.”

Before leaving Ṭihrán, Mullá Ḥusayn asked Mullá Muḥammad to make a promise: He must tell no one what had happened. He must keep the secret in his heart. Mullá Ḥusayn asked Mullá Muḥammad to meditate and pray about all that had happened.





Several years later, young Mullá Muḥammad became a follower of the Báb. He met Mullá Ḥusayn again at Fort Ṭabarsí. His faith became so strong that he gave his life with Mullá Ḥusayn while trying to defend the Faith of the Báb from the attack of its enemies.

Mullá Ḥusayn had discovered two great Mysteries—one in Shíráz and another in Ṭíhrán. These were none other than the Twin Manifestations of God for this Day,

*the Báb  
and Bahá'u'lláh! ★*