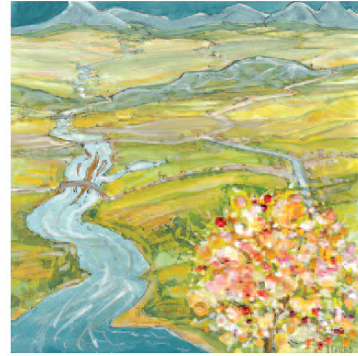


The following story is from the book

The Central Figures

Bahá'u'lláh

Volume Two



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O King! I was but a man like others,
asleep upon My couch, when lo,
the breezes of the All-Glorious
were wafted over Me, and taught Me
the knowledge of all that hath been.
This thing is not from Me, but from
One Who is Almighty and All-Knowing.
And He bade Me lift up My voice
between earth and heaven, and for this
there befell Me what hath caused the tears
of every man of understanding to flow.
The learning current amongst men
I studied not; their schools I entered not.
Ask of the city wherein I dwelt, that
thou mayest be well assured that
I am not of them who speak falsely.
This is but a leaf which the winds of the
will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Praised,
have stirred. Can it be still when the
tempestuous winds are blowing?
Nay, by Him Who is the Lord of all Names
and Attributes! They move it as they list.
The evanescent is as nothing before Him
Who is the Ever-Abiding. His all-compelling sum-
mons hath reached Me, and caused Me
to speak His praise amidst all people.
I was indeed as one dead when His behest
was uttered. The hand of the will
of thy Lord, the Compassionate, the Merciful,
transformed Me.

— Bahá'u'lláh, "Tablet to the King" in *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, pp. 11–12



BADÍ'

Pride of the Martyrs

Badí' waited on the road near the entrance to the sháh's palace. In his hand, he carried a very special message. Bahá'u'lláh had asked Badí' to deliver the message to the sháh.

What an important job! Badí' was only seventeen when Bahá'u'lláh entrusted the Lawḥ-i-Sulṭán (The Tablet to the King) to him. Bahá'u'lláh sent him a letter and a box with the Tablet inside from the prison city of 'Akká.

*Written by Cindy Savage
Illustrated by Carla Trimble*



When the messenger delivered the box, Badí held it in his two hands and kissed it. The box was 1/2 shibr in length, a little less than a shibr in width and 1/4 of a shibr deep. A shibr is the size of the space between the tip of the thumb and the little finger.

As soon as he read his own letter from Bahá'u'lláh, Badí's face became illumined with joy. The letter said that he had been chosen to take the Tablet to the King to Náşiri'd-Dín Sháh. The letter said Badí would be martyred.

“O God!” Badí said as he faced the prison city of ‘Akká and prostrated himself on the ground. “Do not take back by Thy justice what Thou hast vouchsafed unto me by Thy bounty, and grant me strength for its protection.”

Badí walked 900 miles from Akka to Tihrán to deliver the Tablet. The journey took him three months. Then he waited for three days outside the palace.

Finally the people began to wonder why Badí stood on the road. The sháh commanded his servants to bring the man before him.

“Oh! Servant of the sháh, I bring a letter, which I must deliver into his own hands,” Badí said, and then Badí said to the sháh, “I bring you a letter from Bahá'u'lláh.”

He was immediately seized and questioned. The sháh wanted to find out whatever he could to persecute Bahá'u'lláh. He wanted the names of the Bábís.

The shah's men tortured Badí, but he wouldn't answer their questions. They bastinadoed his feet (that means they beat his feet with sticks), but he wouldn't give

them names. They branded him with red hot irons, but he only laughed. Nothing seemed to hurt Badí'. He was confident in God's plan for him. He wanted to sacrifice his life for Bahá'u'lláh.

The torturers couldn't understand it. Why didn't he feel any pain? After three days, they killed him.

What did the Tablet say? 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "The spirit and meaning of the Tablet to Náṣiri'd-Dín Sháh was, in short, this: 'Now that the time has come, when the Cause of the Glory of God has appeared, I ask that I may be allowed to come to Ṭihrán and answer any questions the priests may put to Me.'

"The letter was written in a most beautiful manner," continued 'Abdu'l-Bahá. "It warned the sháh that Bahá'u'lláh's Kingdom would triumph both in the Eastern and in the Western world."

"I exhort you to detach yourself from the worldly magnificence of your Empire," the letter said. "Remember all those great kings who have lived before you—their glories have passed away!"

The sháh paid no attention to Bahá'u'lláh's warning. He continued to live his dishonest and hate-filled life. He is now gone and so is his kingdom, but Bahá'u'lláh's Faith lives on in both the East and the West, bringing happiness and joy to His followers.

Bahá'u'lláh called Badí' the "Pride of the Martyrs" because of his bravery and steadfastness in the face of his horrible ordeal. ★

