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*The Central Figures*

# *Bahá'u'lláh*

*Volume Three*



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True liberty consisteth in man's submission unto My commandments, little as ye know it.

Were men to observe that which We have sent down unto them from the Heaven of Revelation, they would, of a certainty, attain unto perfect liberty.

Happy is the man that hath apprehended the Purpose of God in whatever He hath revealed from the Heaven of His Will that pervadeth all created things. Say: The liberty that profiteth you is to be found nowhere except in complete servitude unto God, the Eternal Truth.

Whoso hath tasted of its sweetness will refuse to barter it for all the dominion of earth and heaven.

— Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, p. 63

# The Faithful Heart

Early one morning, ‘Abdu’r-Ja’far came walking down the road to ‘Akká, the city where Bahá’u’lláh was being held prisoner. He had been walking six months to reach his goal.

Ja’far had been an enemy of the Faith. Then Ḥájí Bábá, an elderly Bahá’í, was friendly to Ja’far and took him to a meeting. Ja’far learned the truth about Bahá’u’lláh. Bahá’u’lláh said the first thing a person must do is believe in Him. Then the believer must follow His Teachings.

Ja’far understood that one of Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings was to go on pilgrimage. Other laws like prayer, fasting, and cleanliness he also understood. He longed to see Bahá’u’lláh, and so he began his long journey.

The believers in ‘Akká said, “We’ve been trying to get into the prison, but the guards won’t let us in.”

Ja’far decided he would try to see Bahá’u’lláh anyway. First, he had to make himself as clean as possible. He washed himself and his clothes in the sea. When he was dressed again, he looked peculiar in his worn and shrunken clothes. But he was clean, and that would please Bahá’u’lláh.

*Written by Adrienne Ellis Reeves  
Illustrated by Barbara Trauger*





His heart was filled with love and hope as he began walking around the prison, praying. He saw a hand at a window motioning him to come inside. He knew it must be Bahá'u'lláh, and his heart started beating fast.

He had no idea how he would get into the prison, but he hurried obediently to the gate. To his astonishment, the guards were standing like statues, motionless and with eyes that could not see.

Ja'far entered the prison, and Bahá'u'lláh welcomed him. The man who had walked for six months to get to this moment was overwhelmed with wonder and love in the presence of his Lord!

Bahá'u'lláh explained that He had temporarily blinded the guards so Ja'far could enter His presence and bear witness to the glory and majesty of the Manifestation of God.

Bahá'u'lláh then gave Ja'far the name "Raḥím," which means "Compassionate."

Bahá'u'lláh told 'Abdu'r-Raḥím to speak to the Bahá'ís about this pilgrimage on his way back to Persia. He also entrusted 'Abdu'r-Raḥím with Tablets to be given to certain people.

When 'Abdu'r-Raḥím left Bahá'u'lláh's presence, he made up his mind to take care of the precious Tablets and be worthy of Bahá'u'lláh's trust.

In the city of Baghdád, he walked through a part of the city filled with shops and businesses called the bazaar. Two guards caught sight of him.

"See that man in those old clothes?" one guard asked.

"He doesn't look like he belongs here," the other one said. "Let's follow him."

'Abdu'r-Raḥím saw he was being followed. *If they find the Tablets on me, they will destroy them, he thought. What shall I do?*

‘Abdu’r-Raḥím took the parcel from his pocket as he kept walking on the crowded street. Without turning his head, he threw the parcel so swiftly into the nearest shop the guards didn’t see his action.

‘Abdu’r-Raḥím turned to Bahá’u’lláh in prayer and begged that the Tablets would be protected. A few moments later, the guards arrested him.

After investigating him, the authorities decided he was a harmless man and let him go. He returned to the bazaar. Every once in awhile he stood near the shop where he’d thrown the parcel. When the shop was empty of customers, the shopkeeper came to the window and motioned to him.

Was the shopkeeper a friend or an enemy? ‘Abdu’r-Raḥím kept his trust in God and entered the shop.

“Alláh’u’Abhá!” the shopkeeper said and embraced him. He handed the parcel back to ‘Abdu’r-Raḥím.

There were very few Bahá’ís in the city at that time, yet the parcel had landed in the shop of one of them! “What a miracle!” the two men agreed.

“You must stay with me a few days so the other friends can see you, and you can tell us all about your journey,” the shopkeeper urged.

‘Abdu’r-Raḥím accepted the invitation. From that day on, in obedience to Bahá’u’lláh, he described the details of his wonderful pilgrimage to the friends throughout his travels. ★

