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The Central Figures

Bahá'u'lláh

Volume Three



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*Those
words
that have streamed
forth from the source
of power and descended
from the heaven of glory
are innumerable and beyond
the ordinary comprehension of
man . . . Ponder a while those
holy words in your
heart, and, with
utter detachment,
strive
to grasp
their
meaning.*

— Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 5

Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí’s Greatest Wish

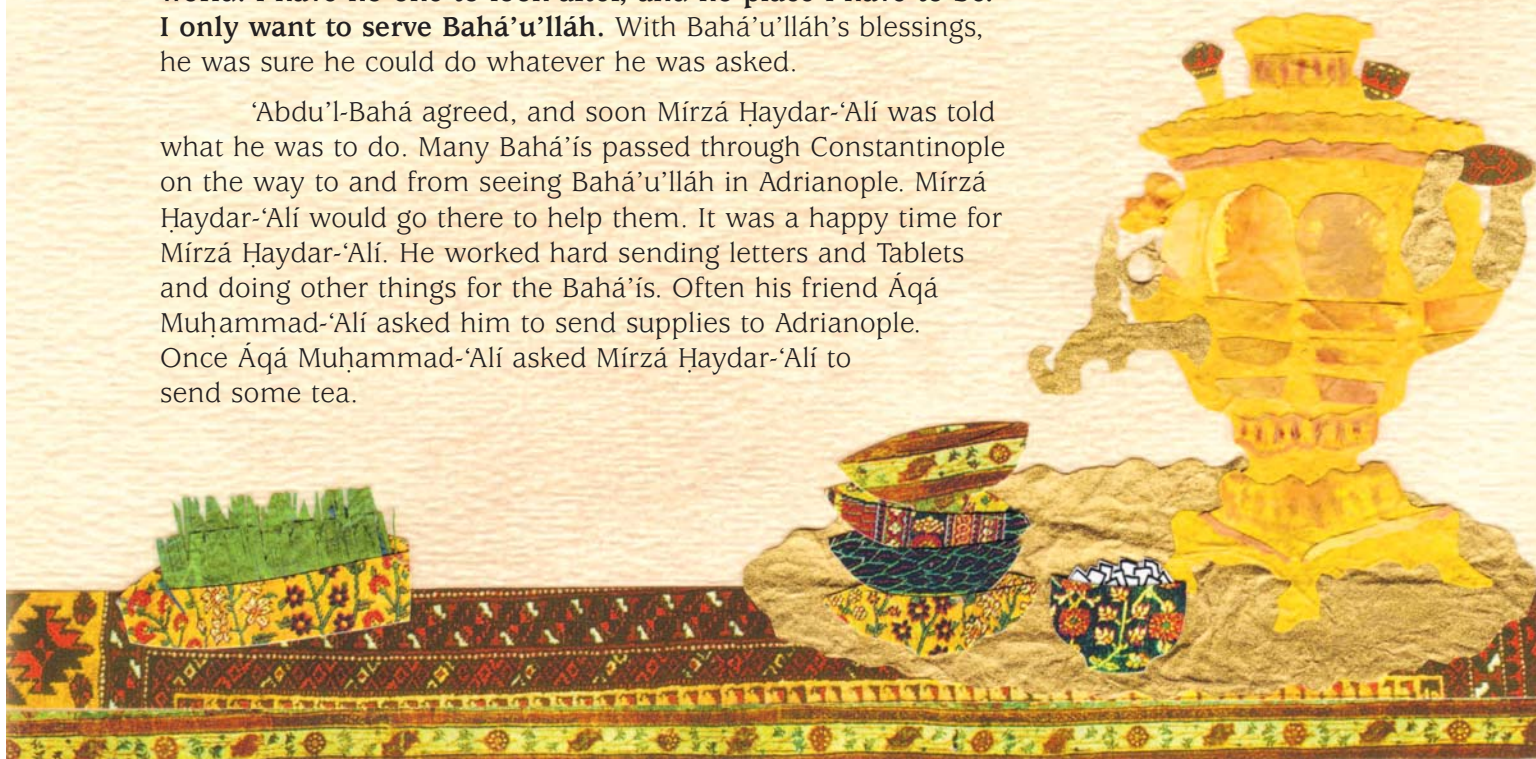
Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí’s greatest wish was to serve Bahá’u’lláh. Once Bahá’u’lláh wrote to him, asking what his plans were. Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí did not know what to say. He did not want to make plans for himself.

Please ask Bahá’u’lláh to tell me what He wants me to do, Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí begged ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. I am alone in the world. I have no one to look after, and no place I have to be. I only want to serve Bahá’u’lláh. With Bahá’u’lláh’s blessings, he was sure he could do whatever he was asked.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá agreed, and soon Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí was told what he was to do. Many Bahá’ís passed through Constantinople on the way to and from seeing Bahá’u’lláh in Adrianople. Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí would go there to help them. It was a happy time for Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí. He worked hard sending letters and Tablets and doing other things for the Bahá’ís. Often his friend Áqá Muḥammad-‘Alí asked him to send supplies to Adrianople. Once Áqá Muḥammad-‘Alí asked Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí to send some tea.



Written by Gail Radley
Illustrated by Barbara Trauger



Soon after Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí sent the tea, a letter came from his friend. **This is not good tea**, the letter gently told him. **Since the tea will be served in the presence of Bahá’u’lláh, you should have tried it first yourself. You should have made sure that it was good.**

Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí frowned. Why did Áqá Muḥammad-‘Alí scold him? He was always helping and doing good things! Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí dashed off an angry letter to his friend.

Soon, a letter came to him from Bahá’u’lláh Himself! What could be in it? Trembling, Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí read the letter. The letter told Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí that he was a faithful servant and that Bahá’u’lláh was pleased with him!

Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí sat back and thought. Áqá Muḥammad-‘Alí’s words of advice had annoyed him. But Bahá’u’lláh’s words of love filled him with guilt! If he were truly a faithful servant, he thought, wouldn’t he have sent Bahá’u’lláh the best tea? If he really wanted to please Bahá’u’lláh, would he have become angry with his friend who only gave him good advice? Yet Bahá’u’lláh had only good things to say about him. Why?



Tears sprang to Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí’s eyes. He prayed to God to make him a better servant. Then he begged ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to ask Bahá’u’lláh to forgive him. Still, Bahá’u’lláh had only loving words for Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí. He said nothing about the tea or the angry letter. The more Bahá’u’lláh showered him with love, the more unworthy Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí felt. If only Bahá’u’lláh would tell him what to do, show him how to be a better servant.

Then Bahá’u’lláh sent him instructions: **Go to Egypt and teach the Cause.**

Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí’s heart lifted—Bahá’u’lláh did forgive him! Bahá’u’lláh was giving him another chance to live up to His words of praise.

And Mírzá Ḥaydar-‘Alí’s greatest wish would still come true—he could continue to serve his beloved Bahá’u’lláh. ★

