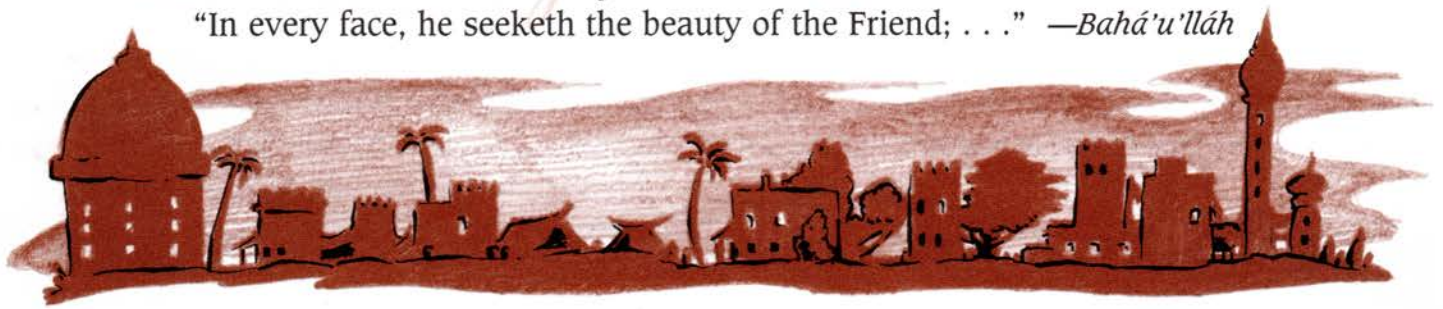


~ Finding the Friend ~

"In every face, he seeketh the beauty of the Friend; . . ." —Bahá'u'lláh



When Bahá'u'lláh mentions "Friend" with a capital "F," He is talking about a Messenger of God. This is the story of a man named Vahíd. Would he recognize the Friend?

Vahíd was staying with the Sháh of Iran when the Báb's Message began to stir the hearts of people. Vahíd was such a learned and respected man that the sháh decided to send him to talk to the Báb, to see if this Message was from God.

Vahíd went to Shiráz, carrying his sword by his side. He announced that if the Báb was not a Messenger of God, he would slay the Báb for telling such a lie. But if the Báb *was* a Messenger, Vahíd would become a Bábí.

During his first meeting with the Báb, Vahíd talked for over two hours about parts of the Qur'án that were mysterious to him. The Báb listened politely, then solved each mystery in just a few words. How could the Báb speak so clearly and powerfully, answering all of Vahíd's questions? Vahíd was filled with awe. He left the Báb, already thinking up new difficult questions to ask.

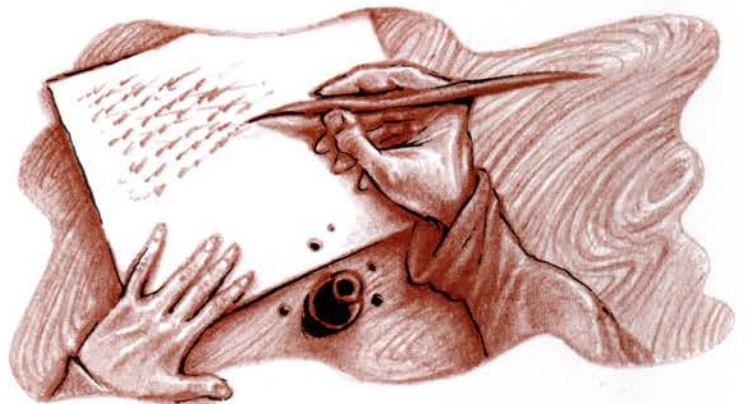
The next day, when he saw the Báb, Vahíd immediately forgot all of his important questions. He started talking about unimportant things, but the Báb started answering all the

questions that Vahíd had forgotten! Even though he was amazed by the Báb's insight, Vahíd wondered if it was just a coincidence.

On the third day, Vahíd decided not to speak at all. Instead, only in his heart, he would ask the Báb to reveal an explanation of the Súrih of Kawthar, a chapter in the Qur'án. As soon as Vahíd entered the room where the Báb was seated, he became afraid. His arms and legs started shaking. The Báb arose, took Vahíd by the hand, and seated him at His side.

The Báb said, "Were I to reveal to you the commentary on the Súrih of Kawthar, would you acknowledge that My words are born of the Spirit of God?" Tears rained from Vahíd's eyes in reply.

Vahíd became a steadfast Bábí, filled with love and confidence. He wrote to the sháh to tell him the news about the Báb. Vahíd had found the Friend. ✨



Based on a story in *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, vol. I, by Adib Taherzadeh