

THE TRUMPET-BLAST

After the Báb told Mullá Husayn that He was a Messenger of God, He explained that 18 people would find Him with no help from others. Mullá Husayn was the first of these followers, “the Letters of the Living.” When all 18 Letters of the Living had found the Báb, He chose one, Quddús, to join Him on pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, the holy cities of Islam. The Báb sent the others to travel and teach His Faith.

Many people accepted the Báb’s Message. Soon the religious leaders grew angry and tried to stop the growth of the Faith. A short time after the Báb returned to Iran from pilgrimage, He was sent to prison. But His Cause continued to grow. The Bábís taught the Faith with vigor.

In the summer of 1848, Bahá’u’lláh called a meeting of 81 Bábís. They met in the small town of Badasht to learn more about the Báb’s

Message. They stopped following the traditions of Islam and began to obey new laws that the Báb had revealed from prison. Their actions were like a trumpet-blast announcing that the Bábí Faith was a new, independent religion.

During the 22-day conference, each Bábí received a new name. Until this time, Bahá’u’lláh had been known as Mírzá Husayn-‘Alí. At Badasht, He took the name of Bahá (Glory).

The Conference of Badasht is also where Quddús earned his name, which means “the Most Holy.” During their visit to Mecca, Quddús had brought the Báb’s Message to the Sherif (city leader). Quddús also helped the Báb’s uncle to accept His Cause.

The only female Letter of the Living received



Quddús and Táhirih were among the many able and devoted Bábís who learned about the Báb’s laws at the Conference of Badasht in 1848.

the name Táhirih (the Pure One). She was a brilliant poet and scholar at a time when it was uncommon for women to be educated. In those times, if women went out in public, they wore long veils over their faces.

Táhirih knew that the Báb had brought new Teachings for all people. One of these Teachings is that women and men are equal. At the Conference of Badasht, Táhirih bravely appeared before the men without her veil. Many of the Bábís were horrified, because they believed that a woman must wear a veil in public. Some left the conference in distress — and even left the Faith. But Táhirih remained calm and dignified. She invited everyone to celebrate the new Faith with these words:

“This day is the day of festivity and universal rejoicing, the day on which the fetters of the past are burst asunder.”