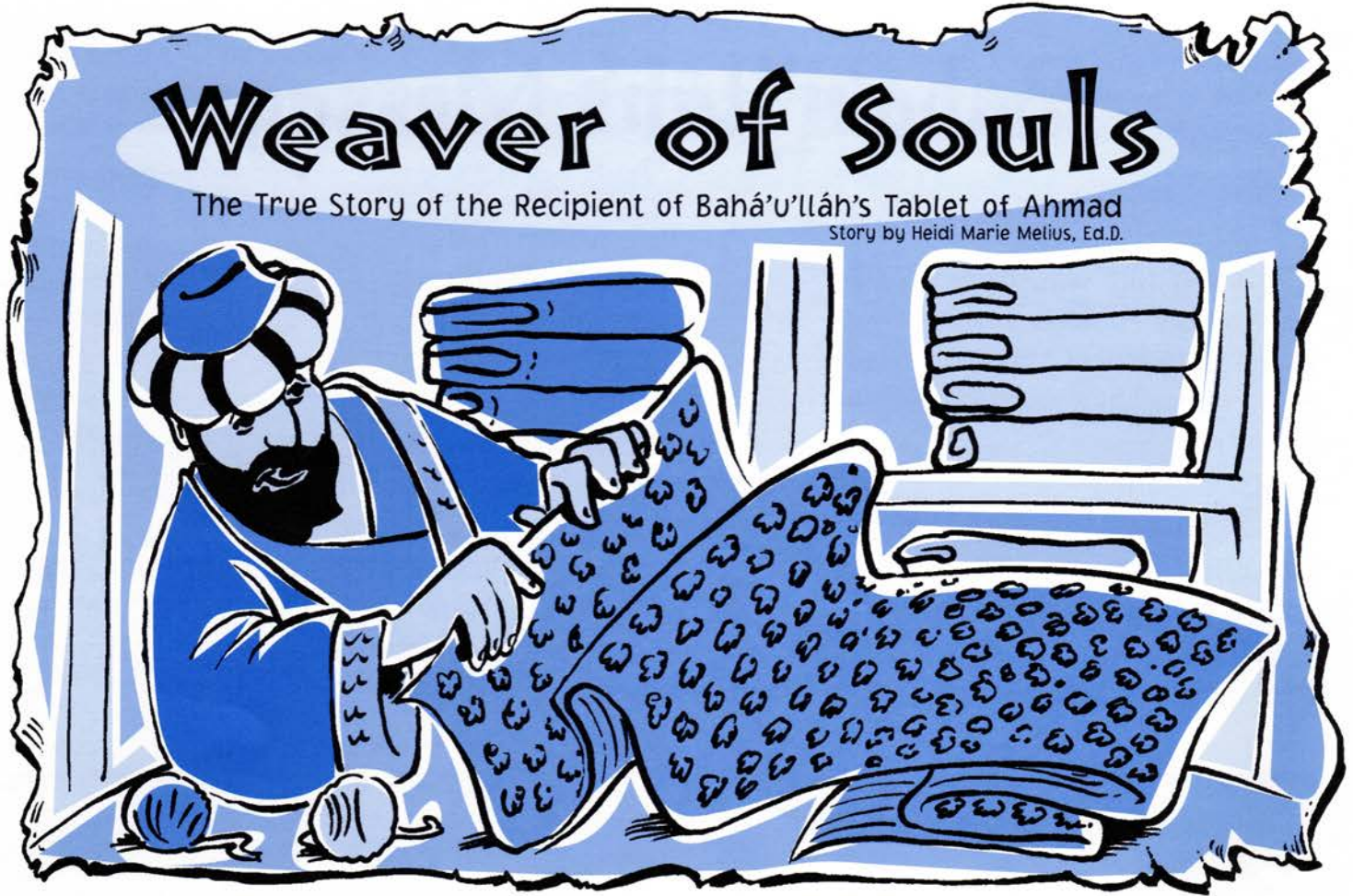


1863-1892

Weaver of Souls

The True Story of the Recipient of Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet of Ahmad

Story by Heidi Marie Melius, Ed.D.



Come listen to the story of Ahmad, the weaver of souls. In the city of Baghdád, we are told, there lived a weaver of cloth. Oh, this was his trade, but in his heart, he was in search of ways to please his Beloved. You see, Ahmad wasn't just an ordinary cloth maker. He was a weaver of souls, and he longed to be of service to his Lord.

By day, Ahmad wove fabrics of beautiful hue and texture. His market stand was always crowded, but the brightly colored cloth wasn't the only thing the customers wanted. Ahmad possessed a truth with which he gladly lit the hearts of the sincere ones. In and out, over and under, building the cloth with each stroke of the shuttle. As he wove his fabrics, so, too, he wove stories of faith, kindness, and love, gladdening the hearts of his listeners.

In the evenings, Ahmad was a companion to Bahá'u'lláh. From his spoken chronicle, Ahmad tells us:

"During this period my soul was constantly nourished from His glorious presence and I had the great honor to live in an outer apartment of His blessed home."*

For six years Ahmad witnessed as many believers traveled from afar to consult with Bahá'u'lláh. He patiently wove Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings into his mind and heart. These ideas created a greater faith — like tightly woven fabric, strong enough to last forever.

Ahmad's story continues:

*From *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, Vol. 2 by Adib Taherzadeh

"I was basking in the sunshine of Bahá'u'lláh's presence until the Sultán's decree for Bahá'u'lláh's departure to Constantinople was communicated." *

After ten years of silence, Bahá'u'lláh made His Declaration in April 1863, in the Garden of Ridván — He was the Promised One. And when Bahá'u'lláh left Baghdád, Ahmad begged to come along.

"At the time of His departure, all of us were together in the Garden. His blessed Person came to us and spoke words of consolation. He said that it was better that we remain behind." *

So, Ahmad stayed in Baghdád, teaching the newly declared Cause of God with great devotion. He patiently wove the stories of Bahá'u'lláh into the daily lives of the friends. Over and under, in and out, offering the teachings like beautifully colored threads to create a delightful pattern.

But in his heart, he longed for His Lord. After a few years, Ahmad set out from Baghdád to join Bahá'u'lláh. Ahmad was about 60 years old when he made the difficult journey on foot. Alas! Ahmad reached Constantinople, only to discover that Bahá'u'lláh was gone — banished to the city of Adrianople, far away!

It was around this time, in 1865, that Ahmad received a Tablet in Arabic from Bahá'u'lláh, now known as the Tablet of Ahmad. He read:

"Be thou as a flame of fire to My enemies and a river of life eternal to My loved ones, and be not of those who doubt."



Ahmad knew immediately that his Beloved desired him to go and teach His Cause. In the final, untranslated paragraph of this Tablet, Bahá'u'lláh tells Ahmad that he should return to Baghdád. Because the fabric of his heart was so tightly woven of faith, he obeyed Bahá'u'lláh's command. Ahmad turned right around and walked another 1400 miles back to Baghdád.

When Ahmad got to Baghdád, he did not rest. Indeed, Ahmad traveled the length and breadth of the country, teaching the Bábís that Bahá'u'lláh was the Promised One foretold by the Báb. Up and down the streets he walked, proclaiming the stories of his heart. Over and over, Ahmad delivered the glad tidings, weaving threads of certainty and knowledge into the hearts of the believers. Through Ahmad's devotion, many became strong Bahá'ís. Ahmad, the weaver of souls, created beautiful designs in the tapestry of his life. ✨