

# Letter of the Báb to His wife

(Mohammad Norozi)<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction and background:

What follows is my provisional translation of a Letter that the Báb wrote to His beloved wife after His return from the pilgrimage in Shíráz.

I do not have any information about the exact date of this Letter's composition. However, based on available information, this Letter must have been written sometime between the Báb's arrival in Shíráz (30 June 1845) and His departure to Isfahan (23 Sept. 1846).

This period was an eventful and tumultuous time for the Báb and His immediate family members. The news of His proclamation while He was on pilgrimage reached Shíráz before His arrival, the divines of Shíráz, the government officials of the city, and its citizens were adamant about putting Him to death.

Abu'l-Qasim Afnan, "Ahd-i A'la" (عهد اعلی), pp.136-137, describes the events that led to the composition of this Letter. He writes, *"The subject of the claim of the Báb was not something that could remain unspoken or kept secret. Besides the divines themselves and their seminaries, which were the gathering places for students of religious sciences, and the mosques and pulpits, which served as the means of disseminating various news, the people of the streets and markets also contributed to spreading this important information."*

*At that time, one of the prominent relatives of the Báb who interacted with the merchants and businessmen of the bazaar was Hajj Mirza Sayyid Ali, the Greatest uncle, who had almost given up his work and was trying to avoid meeting people. The other was Haji Mirza Abu'l-Qasim, the brother of the Báb's wife. Due to the prosperity of his business, he had dealings with people from every class and profession, and he was fearful of any incidents that might occur, living in a state of anxiety and apprehension. Besides these two, the mother and grandmother of the Báb were anxious and disturbed, fearing that the final outcome of the opposition, the animosity of the mullahs, the resentment of the people, and the harshness of the government might lead to the loss of the Báb's life and the dishonor of their family's reputation. Ultimately, the consultation of the elders in the family in Shíráz resulted in a request for Haji Mirza Sayyid Muhammad, the Greater uncle residing in Búshíhr, and Haji Mirza Hasan Ali, the Younger uncle living in Yazd, to come to Shíráz and talk with the Báb in person, persuading him to make no further statements and to renounce his claim in a manner that would please the people.*

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*After the arrival of those two individuals in Shíráz, a family meeting was held at the house of the Báb 's uncle. Following extensive discussion and conversation, each person took turns offering advice and counsel. However, the Báb paid absolutely no attention to their words and desires, ultimately leaving them all disheartened as they departed the meeting. The anxiety and excitement resulting from this incident caused the Báb 's mother to fall ill and she went to bed. Haji Mirza Hasan Ali (the Younger uncle of the Báb) became so angry that he spoke boldly and disrespectfully, leading other participants to do the same. This caused the Báb to feel so heartbroken that He immediately left the meeting and did not return home for a day or two. No one knew His whereabouts. He only sent a brief Letter to His beloved wife to alleviate her concerns. “(translation by Mohammad Norozi).*

The **Appendix** contains the Letter of the Báb, in His own handwriting, to His wife.

## He is the Mighty

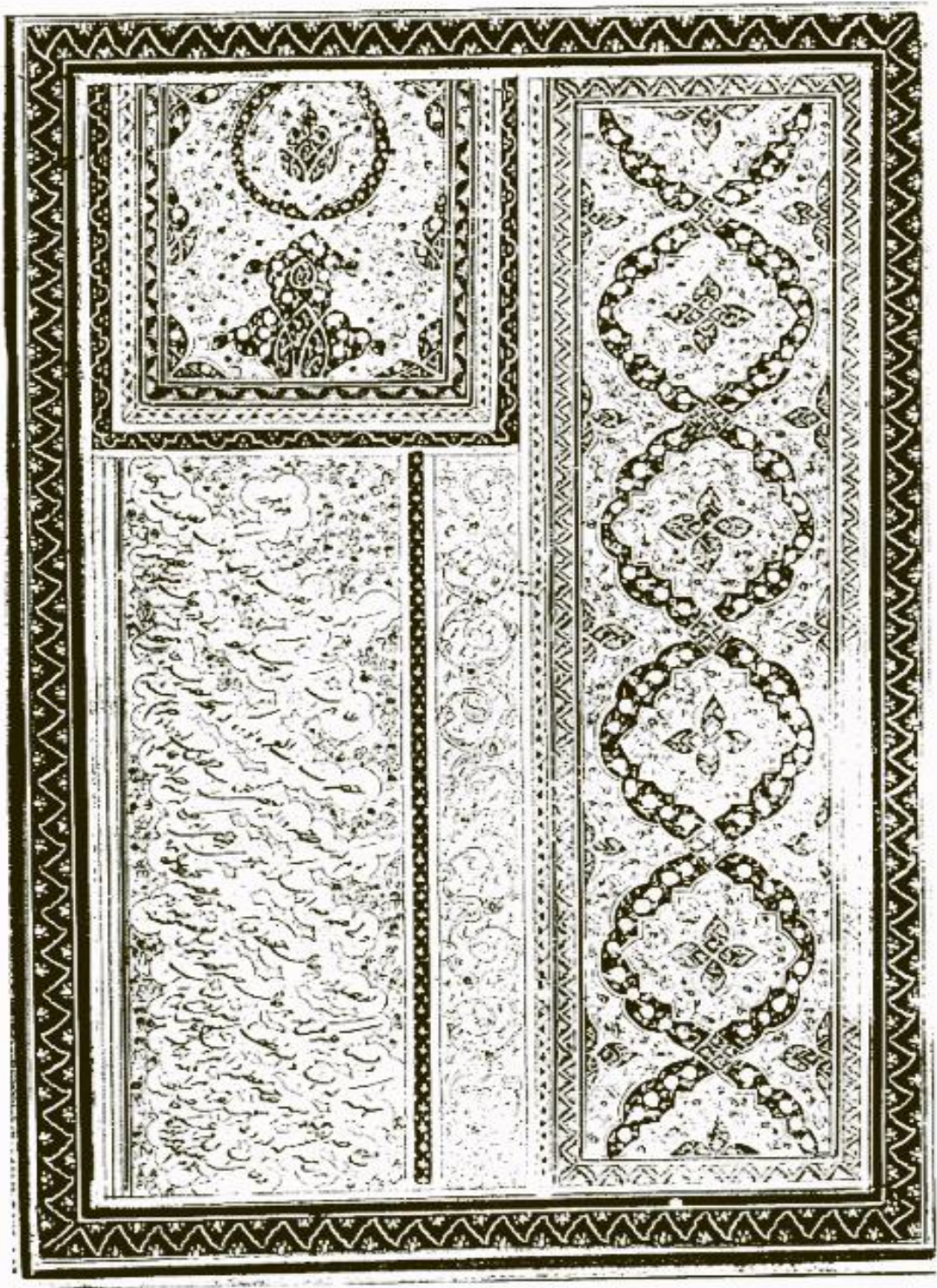
Although from the revolution of earth and heavens and the succession of night and day it is evident what is happening, nevertheless, I have resigned to the grace of the Lord of Might that whatever is ordained, will come to pass. The other day, the esteemed mother uttered certain words that increased My sorrow, nonetheless, praised be to God that the illness of My respected mother has completely passed. May God, the Lord of the Worlds, protect us with His grace. Do not let grief overtake thee at all and neither dwell upon it. Under all conditions, be patient and cling to the grace of God. God willing, His blessings are abundant. God's salvation is near.

Convey greetings to the venerable mother and ask her to remember Me in her prayers, so that I may find relief through the blessings of her prayers. Upon thee rest peace, favors and grace of God.

## هو العزيز

اگرچه از انقلاب گردش افلاک و تقلبات لیل و نهار ظاهر است که چه میگذرد ولی در هر حال متوسل بفضل حضرت رب العزّه بوده که آنچه مقدر شده جاری می شود. یوم گذشته صاحبه والدّه بعضی کلمات فرمودن سبب از دیاد حزنم شد ولی حمد خداوند را که ناخوشی از صاحبی ام بکلی گذشته خداوند عالم بفضلّه در هر حال حفظ فرماید بهیچوجه غصه بخود راه مده و بسیار فکر مکن در هر حال صبر نموده و متوسل به فضل خداوند باشید که انشاء الله لطفهای خداوند بسیار است فرج خداوند خواهد رسید صاحبه معظمه والدّه را عرض سلام برسانید که از دعا فراموش نفرمایند مرا بلکه از برکت دعای ایشان فراغت حاصل شود والسلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

## Appendix



Source: Abu'l-Qasim Afnan, "Ahd-i A'la" (عهد اعلی), p.152.