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## **ON THE MOUNTAIN - The Story**

### **The Teacher (1)**

From the moment He was born the Báb was an unusual child. He hardly cried, and, can you imagine, He didn't make a fuss over food as many children do? When He was 5 years old He often held His arms up high, praying to God, He also woke late in the night to pray.

His uncle found a teacher for Him so He went to school with other boys. The teacher saw that He was quite different from the others; He was kind and gentle, everybody loved Him, and He seemed to know things without being taught.

One day the teacher asked Him to recite the first words in the Holy Quran "In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful." The Báb asked the teacher to explain the words first. The teacher pretended he did not know to see if the Báb would tell him, and the Báb explained what the words meant in a most beautiful way. The teacher took Him to His uncle and told him to look after the child very carefully because he could see he was a very special child who would do great things for the whole world. "Keep Him at home, for He is in no need of teachers such as I."

### **The Mountain (2)**

When the Báb was nine years old His uncle took Him on an outing to visit a holy shrine high up a mountain. They set off just before dawn with a group of men; relatives and friends, and by the time they arrived everyone was very tired. After a meal and saying their prayers, they all went to bed early.

Around midnight, the Báb's uncle woke up and looked across to where his Nephew should have been sleeping. The bed was empty! It was dark and he couldn't find the Báb anywhere and he thought He might have fallen down the mountain.

Just as he was giving up all hope, he heard the sweet voice of a child chanting prayers, and by the light of the moon he saw the small figure of the Báb standing alone on the deserted mountainside, pouring out His heart in praise of God.

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### **The Boat (3)**

The Báb, and a friend, went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. The first part of the journey was by boat and it took 2 whole months, sailing on a very stormy sea. It was also very uncomfortable, there was little food for the passengers and most were seasick. Many of the people on the boat loved the young Báb. There was one traveller who became jealous of all the attention everyone paid to the Báb. He was always starting arguments and fights with other passengers, and he made the Báb his special target. Everyone was unhappy about his behaviour, especially the captain of the ship who ordered his sailors to throw the man over the side of the ship, into the sea! The sailors grabbed the man ready to throw him in, when the Báb asked the captain to spare his life. The captain refused, and the sailors grabbed him to toss him overboard. The Báb threw His arms around the man and held on to him, pleading for the captain to stop. The captain couldn't believe it, after all this Young Man was the One who had suffered the most. The Báb said that people who behave badly only harm themselves, so one should be tolerant and forgiving. This time the captain agreed and freed the man.

When the journey was over the Báb and His friend continued on to Mecca with thousands of other pilgrims.

### **The Wild Horse (4)**

A Prince owned a very wild horse, so wild that he had not been able to find a rider who could stay on its back; even the most experienced riders had been thrown to the ground.

He liked the young Báb and he decided he wanted to test Him to see if He was as courageous and powerful as everyone thought. He ordered his groom to bring the horse for the Báb to ride. The groom was worried that the Báb would be hurt but He told Him not to be worried and to trust in God. All the people of the town knew about the wild horse so they all came to see what would happen. The Báb went quietly up to the horse and took the bridle, then he stroked it lovingly while he put his foot into the stirrup. The horse stood still and patiently, as if it knew this was a special Person with great power and it allowed the Báb to ride him away.

The people all thought it was a great miracle, that only a young, gentle and kind Man had been able to ride such a wild horse.