**Ruhi G3 Lesson 11 on The Bab 3**

**Theme: The Bab Burned Away the Veils**

*Slightly modified from the Ruhi Grade 3 curriculum*

**Opening Prayers- Prayer Sharers**

Following opening prayers, you can review with the children the prayer they learned in Lesson 9 and then help them to memorize the short one below revealed by the Bab.

**“Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!”**

(see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for the prayer in a 4 x 6 format) Can sing this prayer using one of the many versions available online, such as the one by Claire McGrail (please see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson). This version on youtube is also very beautiful, shared online by Bahai Song Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N2jNboFm7Y> )

**Intro to Lesson:**

*The purpose of this lesson is to help the children understand that the Bab burned away the veils that hindered people from recognizing Him as a Manifestation of God. The following ideas may help you to introduce this theme:*

**I will be asking you some questions based on what I am about to share with you, so please pay close attention.**

There are always some people with pure hearts who are able to recognize the Manifestation of God immediately when He appears in this world. They can see the truth of His Message as clearly as they see the sun. The vision of others, however, is not so clear. Ignorance, prejudice and superstition, like clouds that hide the physical sun, act as veils that prevent them from seeing the radiance of the Manifestation. But little by little, the light that shines from His Person burns away many of these veils, and more and more people come to recognize His station.

Thousands upon thousands of people in Persia accepted the Bab’s Message as soon they received its glad-tidings. Others, blinded by their own prejudice or by the hatred instilled in them by their leaders, failed to see His greatness. Yet, wherever He went, His gentle, loving character and penetrating Words soon burned away the veils that hindered them from recognizing Him as a Manifestation of God. The anger, pride, or cruelty they carried in their hearts gave way to love and adoration for the Bab. Learned divines, ordinary people, guards and governors alike came to believe in Him and to support His Cause.

**Questions:**

* **What quality of heart helps people to recognize the Manifestation of God immediately?**
* **What prevents us from seeing the physical sun?**
* **What are some of the veils that prevent people from recognizing the Manifestation of God?**
* **What effect did the Bab have on the people who met Him?**

**Memorization:**

(see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for movements to the quote as well as the quote in a 4 x 6 format)

*In the following quotation, Baha’u’llah warns us that pride can prevent us from recognizing the Manifestation of God and that the things of this world can become a veil between us and God. He calls on us to arise in service to God’s Manifestation and reminds us that we are signs of God’s power.*

**“Take heed lest pride deter you from recognizing the Source of Revelation, lest the things of this world shut you out as by a veil from Him Who is the Creator of heaven. Arise, and serve Him Who is the Desire of all nations, Who hath created you through a word from Him, and ordained you to be, for all time, the emblems of His sovereignty.”**

* **Can share song of this quote: Arise and Serve Him by Harrison Lenz** (see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for the song)

**Songs:** (see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) for lyrics and some music)

* **Queen of Carmel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=62&v=U\_Ko3CzynKs)**

**Story:**

**Props (optional):** (see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for images that correlate with the highlighted words below)

*The historical episode for this lesson recounts the story of the Bab’s imprisonment in the fortress of Mah-Ku. In sharing the account with the children, you will need to decide in advance what details you will wish to emphasize, summarizing portions accordingly and simplifying the language as needed.*

At the time of the Bab’s appearance, Persia was ruled by a weak King, who allowed himself to be controlled by his ministers. The King knew that the Bab’s Message had affected many in the land, including some of his own friends, and that the number of His followers was rapidly growing, and so he summoned the Bab to the royal court in Tihran, ready to meet this extraordinary Personage for himself. But, the Prime Minister, the King’s chief advisor, was a selfish and incompetent man. He was determined that no such meeting would ever take place. He sent a message to intercept the Bab, Who was approaching the capital city under guard, and to divert Him to a small village, where He would be held until further instruction. Meanwhile the Prime Minister convinced the King that the Bab was a threat to his power and that He should be banished to a far-off corner of the country. There, cut off from His followers, the Bab would be forgotten, the Prime Minister thought.

It was now the summer of 1847, three years after the Bab’s declaration of His Mission to Mulla Husayn, and orders were issued for Him to be taken to the fortress of Mah-Ku, a large stone edifice, high on a mountain in a lonely, remote region of the country. At the foot of the mountain was a small village. Only one road led up to the fortress, and a guard house stood at the entrance to the road, preventing anyone from going there without permission. To this desolate and forsaken place, the Bab was brought, still under guard. He was kept alone in a room, without even a lamp by which to read.

The warden of the fortress, a stern man by the name of Ali Khan, was cautioned not to allow the Bab to affect him. His previous guards had come to love Him so much that they shed tears at bidding the Bab farewell. Wherever He went, His gentle nature captivated people. Accordingly, Ali Khan laid down strict orders that no one, with the exception of two attendants, should be permitted to see the Bab. Further, if any of His followers arrived in the village, he refused to let them remain there, even for one night.

Yet, soon, in Mah-Ku, as elsewhere, the hearts of the people were softened by the ennobling influence of the Bab’s love. They were drawn to His Person and to the truth of His Message. Early each morning many would gather at the foot of the mountaino n the road below the prison-fortress and call out to Him, seeking His blessing for their daily work. Ali Khan tried to stop them, but the longing of the people to see the Bab could not be diminished, and they continued to gather every day in the hope of catching a glimpse of Him at His window.

Then one day, Ali Khan appeared at the door of the Bab’s room a changed man. No longer proud and cruel, he had become courteous and gentle, but was obviously confused and agitated. The Bab arose from His seat and welcomed him with humility and reverence. Ali Khan flung himself at the Bab’s feet. “Deliver me,” he pleaded, “from my perplexity.” He then explained that he had just had a most extraordinary experience: “I was riding through the wilderness and was approaching the gate of the town, when, it being the hour of dawn, my eyes suddenly beheld You standing by the side of the river engaged in offering Your prayer. With outstretched arms and upraised eyes, You were invoking the name of God. I stood still and watched You. I was waiting for You to terminate Your devotions that I might approach and rebuke You for having ventured to leave the castle without my leave. In Your communion with God, You seemed so wrapt in worship that You were utterly forgetful of Yourself. I quietly approached You.” Ali Khan went on to explain that he was suddenly seized with fear at the idea of disturbing the Bab, so he decided to leave Him and rebuke the guards for their negligence instead. However, to his surprise, upon arriving at the fortress, he found the gates locked and the guards at their post. Then he said, “I was ushered into Your presence, and now find You, to my wonder, seated before me. I am utterly confounded.”

“What you have witnessed is true and undeniable,” said the Bab. Through this experience, He explained, God had clearly revealed to Ali Khan the truth of the Bab’s Message. Ali Khan’s heart was greatly calmed by the Bab’s Words, and he was determined to do everything in his power to make up for his past behavior. Immediately, he lifted the restrictions imposed on the Bab, and the doors of the fortress were opened to all those who wished to enter His Presence. An increasing number of His followers from different parts of Persia began to travel to Mah-Ku in order to visit the Bab, converse with Him, and receive His guidance. Ali Khan himself never failed to pay his respects to the Bab each Friday and to assure Him of his unswerving loyalty and dedication.

Now you remember that, following the declaration of His Mission three years earlier, the Bab had sent Mulla Husayn on a most important mission to Tihran. After the completion of the task with which he had been entrusted, Mulla Husayn continued to spread the gladtidings of the coming of the Promised Qa’im. But, finally, he could bear the pain of separation from the Bab no longer. He vowed to walk the long distance to Mah-Ku in order to attain His presence, and he set out on foot at once. It was spring when he arrived at the fortress, following a winter that had been so unusually cold that the water the Bab used to prepare Himself for prayer would glisten into drops frozen upon His blessed face. Now the one to whom the Bab referred as His “Primal Mirror”, the first to recognize His Station, had joined Him. It was a time for joyous celebration.

Mulla Husayn remained in Mah-Ku for only a short period. One day, s the Bab was looking out over the landscape of the surrounding country from the roof of the fortress, He turned to Mulla Husayn and described to him events that would come to pass in the weeks and months ahead. Then He made clear that His days of relative freedom in Mah-Ku would soon end. “A few days after your departure from this place,” the Bab informed Mulla Husayn, “they will transfer Us to another mountain. Ere you arrive at your destination, the news of Our departure from Mah-Ku will have reached you.” And, not long after, when Mulla Husayn was preparing to make his leave, the Bab addressed him with these words: “You are destined to exhibit such courage, such skill and heroism as shall eclipse the mightiest deeds of the heroes of old. Your daring exploits will win the praise and admiration of the dwellers in the eternal Kingdom.”

All that the Bab had predicted soon came to pass. You see the Prime Minister had learned that Ali Khan had become a devoted supporter of the Bab, and so he ordered that the Prisoner should be transferred to another fortress. The Bab bade a loving farewell to the people of Mah-Ku, who, during the nine months He had been in captivity there, had recognized to a remarkable degree the power of His personality and the greatness of His character. As for Mulla Husayn, we will learn in another class about the trials he would face and the acts of bravery he would perform. But, for now, there is one more important thing you need to know about the time the Bab spent in Mah-Ku.

During the period of His imprisonment there, the Bab revealed the Persian Bayan, in which He established the laws of His Dispensation, plainly and directly announced the coming of another Revelation greater than His Own, and urged His followers to seek and find “Him Whom God would make manifest”. One of His followers who was in Mah-Ku at the time later explained, “The voice of the Bab, as He dictated the teachings and principles of His Faith, could be clearly heart by those who were dwelling at the foot of the mountain. The melody of His chanting, the rhythmic flow of the verses which streamed from His lips caught our ears and penetrated into our very souls. Mountain and valley re-echoed the majesty of His voice. Our hearts vibrated in their depths to the appeal of His utterance.”

And in the Persian Bayan, the Bab refers to the days He spent in that fortress-prison, where His captors were “so veiled from Him as to refuse Him even a lamp!” But of course you know that nothing can prevent God from achieving His purpose, and the light of the Bab’s Revelation soon burned away the veils that kept His captors from seeing the Truth, and the fire of the love of God that He ignited in heart after heart continued to spread throughout the land. Indeed, many years later, a beautiful Shrine would be built to honor the Bab, and it would be flooded with light, always illumined for One who had been denied even a lamp in that prison-fortress.

**Facts:**

*You may wish to include the following information in the games you are devising to help the children retain important facts.*

(see [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) for the fact cards for this lesson; they can be used in the way described in Lesson 2)

* Three years after the declaration of His Mission, the Bab was…imprisoned unjustly in the fortress of Mah-Ku.
* The fortress of Mah-Ku was in…a remote, mountainous region of Persia.
* The warden of the prison-fortress of Mah-Ku was named…Ali Khan.
* During His imprisonment at Mah-Ku, the Bab revealed…the Persian Bayan, His Most Holy Book.
* After nine months imprisoned in Mah-Ku, the Bab…was moved to another fortress called Chihriq.

**Drama:** It is suggested that you ask the children to reenact the events associated with the above historical episode, from the plottings of the Prime Minister to the Bab’s relocation to the fortress of Chihriq. Of course, no one would portray the person of the Bab, and you may need to narrate portions of the episode accordingly.

**Art/Drawing:** Today you may ask the children to draw a picture of the mountain fortress of Mah-Ku.

Another option- draw the Shrine of the Bab flooded in light (or having a detailed coloring sheet of the Shrine of the Bab that they can color).

See [www.supportingthecoreactivities.org](http://www.supportingthecoreactivities.org) under this lesson for some ideas/support material.

**Review:**

**“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.”** –Baha’u’llah

**Closing Prayer**