**Story for Grade 3 Lesson 9 on the Bab**

**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 tells the story of how the first and last of the Letters of the Living came to know the Bab and recognize His Station. As always, you will have to decide before class how you will approach this period. Remember, as we have mentioned before, you will need to take into account the level of comprehension of your students in making this determination. If you feel the language is too difficult for the children, you may need to simplify it to suit their capacity. Further, you may wish to recount only part of the episode- the story of either Mulla Husayn or Quddus.*

We are living in extraordinary times. For thousands and thousands of years, humanity has waited for the Day when all the peoples of the world would be united, when wards and misery would disappear, and peace would be established on earth. We are fortunate to know that this new Day has dawned and that the time to build a new world has come. So special is this Day that God sent not one but two Manifestations to guide humanity to His Kingdom. The Bab and Baha’u’llah are the Twin Manifestations of God for today.

Before the Bab declared His Mission, several people around the world know deep in their hearts that the Promised Qa’im- He who ariseth- would soon appear. One of these saintly personages was Siyyid Kazim. Siyyid Kazim had many students whom he was preparing for the coming of the long-awaited Qa’im. When his work was done and the time had arrived for him to leave this world, he told his students that their preparation had ended, that the One for Whom they were waiting would appear and that they should go forth and not rest until they reached His presence. After Siyyid Kazim’s passing, many of his students set out in search of their Heart’s Desire. Among them were two of the greatest heroes of the Bahai Faith, Mulla Husayn and Quddus.

What would you do if you were a student of Siyyid Kazim and wished to find the Promised Qa’im but did not know who He was or in which city He resided? Mulla Husayn’s first step was to spend forty days in prayer and meditation. He ate little, he slept little, and he hardly conversed with anyone; he prayed continuously and opened his heart to God’s inspiration. Then he set out on his search. It was as if a force were guiding him in a certain direction. So he followed the attraction he felt in his heart and kept going. He walked and he walked until he finally reached the city of Shiraz. In that city God answered his prayers.

At the gate of Shiraz, a few hours before sunset, he met a youthful Personage who welcome him and invited him to His home to refresh himself after his long and difficult journey. So dignified and majestic was this extraordinary Youth that Mulla Husayn accepted His invitation. That evening his Host showered him with kindness. He poured water on his hands and feet so that Mulla Husayn could wash away the dust from his journey. He Himself prepared tea and offered it to him and later stood next to him as they each said their evening prayer.

You have already figured out, of course, that this Holy Being was none other than the Bab Himself.

That evening while they were conversing, the Bab turned to Mulla Husayn and asked, “Whom, after Siyyid Kazim do you regard as his successor and your leader?” Mulla Husayn explained that Siyyid Kazim had not named a successor, but had asked his students to set out in search of the Promised Qa’im. “Has your teacher,” asked the Bab, “given you any detailed indications as to the distinguishing features of the promised One?” Mulla Husayn mentioned that He would have to be a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad; that His age would be between twenty and thirty; that He would possess innate knowledge; and that He would be of medium height, would abstain from smoking and would have no physical defects. The Bab paused for a while and then with a vibrant voice said, “Behold, all these signs are manifest in Me!” He then went on to explain to Mulla Husayn great spiritual truths, and even revealed the first chapter of one of His Holy Books in his presence. Can you imagine the joy that filled Mulla Husayn’s heart that evening as he accepted the Bab and became the first to recognize His Station?

Mulla Husayn wanted, of course, to share the news of this extraordinary event with others, especially with the students of Siyyid Kazim. But the Bab instructed him not to do so. He explained that first eighteen people had to find Him by themselves, guided to Him directly by their own spiritual insight, and only when that number was complete would the new Faith be taught to others. The Bab would call these eighteen blessed souls the Letters of the Living.

(Can share this video song from youtube in honor of Mulla Husayn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbc5d59vvpo>)

Gradually, in the weeks that followed, sixteen more people, some through dreams, some while praying, others while meditating, found the Bab and accepted Him. The number of the Letters of the Living was almost complete. But who was to be the eighteenth Letter of the Living? One day the Bab and Mulla Husayn were walking down a street of Shiraz when Mulla Husayn met his friend, that outstanding student of Siyyid Kazim whom we now know as Quddus. Like Mulla Husayn, Quddus had left his home and was traveling from city to city hoping to reach the presence of the Promised Qa’im. He, too, had spent hours and hours in prayer, asking God to lead him to the Object of his desire. He, too, had been led by the mysterious Hand of God to the city of Shiraz.

Quddus embraced Mulla Husayn and asked him eagerly whether he had attained his goal. Mulla Husayn did not know what to say. So he tried to calm his friend. He told him that, after such a long journey, he should rest and later they would discuss this matter. But Quddus could not be quieted so easily. His heart was leaping with joy. His gaze was fixed on the Bab Who was a few steps ahead of them. “Why seek you to hide Him from me?” he said impatiently to Mulla Husayn. “I can recognize Him by His gait. I confidently testify that none besides Him, whether in the East or in the West, can claim to be the Truth. None other can manifest the power and majesty that radiate from His holy person.” Mulla Husayn went to the Bab and informed Him of his conversation with Quddus. “Marvel not at his strange behavior,” was the Bab’s answer, “We have in the world of the spirit been communing with that youth. We know him already. We indeed awaited his coming. Go to him and summon him forthwith to Our presence.” Mulla Husayn gladly went back and called Quddus to the presence of the Bab. And this is how, on that historic day, the number of the Letters of the Living was completed. Soon the Message of the Bab would spread in every direction.