**STORY:** Mulla Bahram was a Baha'i who lived in Iran many years ago.  One day, he received a letter that caused him great concern.  His cousin had been jailed without justification.  A few powerful individuals who wished his cousin ill had lodged a complaint against him and he had been arrested by police, even though he had committed no crime.

After reading the letter, Mulla Bahram thought deeply about this problem and decided to do to see a high government official to ask for help.  When Mulla Bahram arrived at this official's home, he found him at a feast with many of his guests.  One of them who saw the poorly dressed man enter the doorway, wanted to have him thrown out.  But the owner of the house saw Mulla Bahram and with a great deal of love and respect, invited him to come in.  All of the guests were surprised to thee the courtesy and warmth with which the official treated Mulla Bahram, a poor and humble man.  The host explained, "the respect I feel towards Mulla Bahram is well deserved because he is a righteous and honest man, even in moments of tests."  Mulla Bahram explained his problem and with a great deal of pleasure, the official wrote out the order for his cousin's immediate release. The guests were surprised and asked the official how he knew that Mulla Bahram was so honest that he merited such respect from a high government official.  The official answered:

"Some time ago, I had a debt which I had to pay right away, but I didn't have enough money.  So I arrived at an agreement with the money-lender that he would receive a piece of property in exchange for the debt.  However, we could not come to an agreement on the property's value.  We could no accept the judgement of a friend of his nor a friend of mine, because each of us could have paid our friend to alter the property's price in our favour.  So we asked a merchant to send one of his employees to the property to but a value on it.  He sent Mulla Bahram.  To ensure that the property was worth enough to pay the entire debt, I went to him the day he was to value the property and offered him a big bag of money to that he would speak in my favour.  He would not have earned that much money in six years of hard work, but he did not accept it. He said it was better to wait and see the property.  It turned out that Mulla Bahram estimated the property at much more than what I had thought it was worth.  So, I went to him and offered him a bag of much more money so he would be pleased.  He did not take it this time either.  He said that the only reason he had put that value on the property was because it was the true value.  His appraisal was a part of his work, for which he received a salary, and it would not be right to receive anything extra for it."

"Now," said the official to his guests, "you can appreciate why I say that Mulla Bahran possesses an honesty and integrity which is very rare these days.  Oh if everyone could be as honest as Mulla Bahram!"