Story for Ruhi 3A Lesson 1 on Prayer

In the early days of the Bahai Faith, just like with any new Message from God, there are heroes who do extraordinary things in service to God. This is the story of a young boy, Ruhullah Varqa, who lived during the time of Baha’u’llah and Abdu’l-Baha. So great was Ruhullah’s love for God, and so absolute his dedication to His Cause, that whenever we hear his name we think of a life of devotion and servitude.

When Ruhullah was about 7 years old, he travelled with his father to the Holy Land, now called Israel. There he had the great privilege of meeting Baha’u’llah, Who had brought to humanity a message from God for this day. Ruhullah’s heart became filled with love for Baha’u’llah and he wanted nothing more than to serve Him. Upon returning home to Persia he spent his time sharing with others the news of Baha’u’llah’s coming. Ruhullah was truthful, honest, courteous, and kind, and his words has a great effect on all who heard him. He rose at dawn time, in the early morning, each day to pray, and with his heart turned towards God, passed each day in servitude to Him.

One day, Ruhullah was summoned to appear before an official. At that time, many people were fearful of the new message that was being spread throughout the land. They clung to the beliefs of the past, and the follower s of the new Faith often became victims of harsh punishments. This has happened with the coming of each Messenger of God- like in the times of Moses and Jesus, their early believers were also persecuted. For this reason, Ruhullah’s father was in great danger. As proof that he had raised his sons in this new Faith, Ruhullah was asked to say a prayer in the presence of the official. This, it was hoped, would be enough to convince the official to condemn his father.

Calmly, Ruhullah prepared his heart to offer supplication to God. Then, in a melodious voice, he chanted a Bahai prayer of exquisite beauty. The official was deeply moved. He dismissed the matter immediately, saying he would not condemn a man who had raised a child so wonderful. And so Ruhullah’s father was saved.

Later, when Ruhullah was about 12 years old, he would once again set out with his father to visit the Holy Land. This time, he would be blessed to pass his days in the presence of Abdu’l-Baha, who loved Ruhullah very much and especially enjoyed hearing him chant in his beautiful voice the many prayers he knew by heart. Ruhullah would leave the Holy Land ablaze with Divine love, ready to sacrifice his all for the Cause of God.