

A RADIANT POINT OF LIGHT

Based on the writing of Duane L. Herrmann • Version 1.1

[SCENE 1]

▣ NARRATOR

Our story takes place in the quiet city of Zanzan, Persia. Two humble camel drivers traveling to exciting (and sometimes dangerous) places far and wide share the stories of their journey with a friend.

CAMEL DRIVER #1 (*excited*)

We must tell you, in our caravan this trip, there was a holy man. This person was a descendent of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon His soul. He traveled with two companions and would often melodiously chant poems and prayers of the most exquisite kind – ones I had never heard before. Such a voice!

CAMEL DRIVER #2

While he chanted, his entire countenance radiated joy and wonder. The happiness and bliss that were on his face are indescribable.

(Camel Driver #2 looks off into the distance and there is a short silence)

CAMEL DRIVER #1 (*calmly*)

Before chanting, this youth would take off the turban from his head and drape it over his shoulders. I'd never seen a person do such a thing. It was shocking, and yet he did it with such grace and reverence that it was obvious he was honoring his ancestry and connection to the Prophet.

CAMEL DRIVER #2

It was as if he had a new freedom to see and do new things, in new ways. He was amazing.

CAMEL DRIVER #1 (*smiling*)

Many times I would walk beside him just to be near him. I could hear him better too.

CAMEL DRIVER #2

Sometimes so many of us would walk beside him that the caravan would slow down. You know, camels walk slower if you're not there to urge them on, and with so many of us away from our camels, not enough drivers were left to keep the caravan going.

CAMEL DRIVER #1 (*softly*)

I want to find him someday and find out why he was so joyous, so radiant.

▣ NARRATOR

The camel drivers had begged this radiant youth to tell them the secret to his radiance, but he would not.

CAMEL DRIVER #2 (*thoughtfully*)

It may be possible to find him, as he lives near the city. As we approached the city gates, he and his companions turned off a slight path and left the caravan. It was late afternoon, so they could not have been going far. They would not have camped out in the open, it is too dangerous during the night. They must have had a destination near here. I want to find him. I want to find the secret of his joy!

(Camel Drivers leave in one direction and friend in the other)

(Friend comes back on center stage and makes a looking around gesture)

▣ NARRATOR

The caravan drivers' friend was so enchanted by their story that while the drivers were away with the next caravan, they went to the city gate to watch for travelers going the direction the drivers had described.

[SCENE 2]

(Camel Drivers are sitting when Friend comes into the room quickly)

FRIEND (*excitedly*)

I found him! I found him! His name is Siyyid Ashraf! He lives on an estate near the city. I can take you to him! He welcomes you both to visit him. He is willing to tell you the source of his joy! He radiates light and joy and peace. When can you go? I want you to meet him.

CAMEL DRIVER #1

Praise be to God! Can this be true? Are you sure he is the same youth I saw?

FRIEND

Yes, yes! He said he was with the caravan that returned the last time you were home. And he wears the same green turban. He has to be the same one, there is no one like him!

CAMEL DRIVER #2

Yes, we must go to meet him and learn his secret.

(Camel Drivers get up and leave quickly)

[SCENE 3]

(Siygid Ashraf is sitting alone, Camel Drivers come in)

▣ **NARRATOR**

In a short amount of time, they were in the presence of Siyyid Ashraf.

SIYYID ASHRAF

I was as if asleep, no – not asleep, as one who had never been alive until I had attained the presence of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh. Though my mother raised me to believe in Him, my father was martyred for his belief just before I was born. I was more concerned with my own self than I was with the welfare of others or their spiritual awakening. It was the power of the words of the Blessed Beauty that woke up my soul and brought me to life.

Because of the persecution, it has been impossible for believers to gather together in the city, so I have built this room for them. Out here, away from the city, we can meet in peace.

I have been asked by His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh to meet the followers of the Bab and help them understand the station of Bahá'u'lláh as the One the Bab promised would come after Him. I see that you are sincere seekers, and welcome you all to attend the meeting this evening.

▣ **NARRATOR**

The camel drivers did attend that meeting, and several ones after. At the meetings, the believers would recite Tablets and prayers of Bahá'u'lláh: The Book of Certitude, The Hidden Words, The Seven Valleys, and many others. Hearing these words of God confirmed his belief that Bahá'u'lláh was the Promised One of the Qur'an.

The example set by the radiant Siyyid Ashraf had illumined and transformed their lives. He led many souls to recognize Bahá'u'lláh as the Promised One foretold by the Báb and the Qur'an. His life was a radiant success.

[END]