

DAWN BREAKS IN THE PRISON

Originally written by Amy Renshaw for Brilliant Star Magazine • Version 1.0

[SCENE 1]

▣ NARRATOR

In 1852, remarkable events took place below the streets of Tihiran. In a cold, filthy dungeon called the "Black Pit," followers of the Bab were taken prisoner. One of them, Mirza Husayn-Ali, would later be known as Baha'u'llah, the Glory of God.

Baha'u'llah told amazing stories of His days in the prison. We do not know if any of the prisoners spoke to the criminals among them. We can only imagine what they might have said.

THIEF

These chains are so heavy, and the smell! I can't stand it in here.

BABI #1

Take heart, friend.

THIEF

Why are you Babis so cheerful? The guards take a Babi every day to be killed. Aren't you afraid?

BABI #1

I would gladly give my life for this Faith.

THIEF *(shakes head)*

The Babis seem happy to go to their death. And each one talks to that Man before they leave.

BABI #2

That is Mirza Husayn-Ali

THIEF

Yesterday He gave His shoes away to a man about to be killed. Why would He do such a thing?

BABI #2

He teaches us love and kindness, even here.

***SINGING: God is sufficient unto me; He verily
is the All-Sufficing!
In Him let the trusting trust.***

[SCENE 2]

THIEF

How can you sing at a time like this?

BABI #1

God has a plan for each of us.

THIEF

We're in a filthy dungeon. You could be killed at any minute. Can't you see that God has forsaken you?

BABI #1

God is always with us, even here.

THIEF *(sniffing the air)*

Do you smell that? It smells like-meat! I haven't eaten meat in months. I must be imagining things.

(guards enter, carrying a tray of roast meat)

THIEF *(to guards)*

It is meat! Give some! Over here!

GUARD #1

No, it's a gift for the Babis, from the shah.

GUARD #2

We're taking it to their Leader

(guards walk past them and offstage)

THIEF

Whoever heard of the shah sending a gift like that to a Prisoner?

BABI #2

He's not just any prisoner.

THIEF

I guess not. Did you see the man who came to visit Him yesterday? He looked important.

(guards walk by again carrying the meat)

THIEF

Where are you going? Leave that here!

GUARD #1

He didn't want it. He said, "We can well dispense with this gift."

GUARD #2

Now we can eat it ourselves

(guards exit with the meat)

THIEF *(calling after them)*

Wait! Leave some for us! *(shakes head)* What's going to happen to me?

BABI #1

God will provide, friend - in this world or the next.

THIEF

I've killed people like you. What would God want with me?

BABI #2

God will never for-sake those who seek Him.

*SINGING: God is sufficient unto me; He verily
is the All-Sufficing!
In Him let the trusting trust.*

[SCENE 3]

▣ **NARRATOR**

Those were mysterious days in the shah's dungeon. Baha'u'llah tells us that, in the midst of the gloom and misery, He saw a glorious Vision.

(pulls out a scroll and reads)

"While engulfed in tribulations I heard a most wondrous, a most sweet voice, calling above My head. Turning My face, I beheld a Maiden ... suspended in the air before me ... pointing with her finger unto My head. She addressed all who are in heaven and all who are on earth, saying: 'By God! This is the Best-Beloved of the worlds, ...'"

We can only wonder if Baha'u'llah's fellow prisoners sensed the spiritual power that visited the prison. He told no one about His Vision.

*SINGING: God is sufficient unto me; He verily
is the All-Sufficing!
In Him let the trusting trust.*

[SCENE 4]

▣ **NARRATOR**

After four long months, Baha'u'llah and the remaining Babis were released. Baha'u'llah was banished to Baghdad. He waited 10 years before announcing that He was the Promised One.

*(guards enter and pull chains off of the
prisoners, who stand & stretch)*

BABI #1

We go today, friend.

THIEF

I didn't think you'd make it.

BABI #2

God has other plans for us. And perhaps for you as well.

THIEF

Me? You think so?

BABI #1

If you find yourself free again, come and find us. You have friends among the Babis.

THIEF

But - it's dangerous - so many Babis have been killed.

BABI #2

God is sufficient unto me; He verily is the All-Sufficing!

THIEF *(looks at the Babis for a moment)*

In Him let the trusting trust.

[END]