

Letter of the Báb to His Uncle, Siyyid Hasan-‘Alí (Khál-i-Asghar)¹, from Muscat²

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25 May 2025

Introduction:

What follows is a provisional translation of a deeply evocative Letter revealed by the Báb and addressed to His maternal uncle, Siyyid Hasan-‘Alí—known as Khál-i-Asghar—from the port city of Muscat.

Revealed in the aftermath of His return from pilgrimage, this Letter offers a rare and personal glimpse into the Báb’s reflections on His sacred journey to Mecca³ and Medina⁴. With reverent restraint, He recounts His visitation to the holy sanctuaries, the rites performed, and His sojourn in those sanctified precincts. Written with characteristic humility and grace, the Letter also bears witness to the Báb’s profound regard for His family, as He entrusts His uncle with the responsibility of conveying the purport of the message to His relatives and kindred in Shíráz⁵. The Báb revealed this Letter on 23 Rabí‘ al-Thání 1261 A.H., corresponding to 1 May 1845 C.E.

The Báb writes:

“ It is humbly submitted to thine exalted presence that, shouldst thou, in the graciousness of thy favour, deign to inquire after the condition of this lowly One⁶, praise be to God and gratitude be unto Him, at the moment of this writing—being the twenty-third day of the month of Rabí‘u’th-Thání⁷—I have returned from the journey to the House of God⁸ and arrived in the land of Muscat. Praise be to God, as He is worthy thereof, My physical health is well established, and all hath passed, up to this moment, in perfect goodness.

On the first day of the month of Dhí‘l-Hijjah⁹, I attained the honour of pilgrimage to the Sacred House of God, wherein I sojourned for twenty-seven days. During this time, I

¹ Khál-i-Asghar, meaning "the Younger Uncle," was residing in Yazd at the time the Báb revealed this letter to him.

² Muscat is the capital city of present-day Oman, located on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula; in the 19th century, it was a significant port and commercial hub with strong regional and maritime trade connections.

³ Mecca is Islam’s holiest city, the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad and the site of the sacred Ka’bah within the Masjid al-Harām.

⁴ Madina is the city in Arabia where the Prophet Muhammad migrated and is buried.

⁵ Birthplace of the Báb.

⁶ The Báb.

⁷ Rabí‘u’th-Thání (also known as Rabí‘ al-Ākhir) is the fourth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Although the Báb does not specify the year in this letter, it can be determined from His other writings—particularly the Khuṭbah-i-Jeddah (Sermon of Jeddah)—that the year was 1261 A.H. Hence, 23 Rabí‘ al-Thání 1261 A.H. corresponds to 1 May 1845 C.E.

⁸ Ka’bah.

⁹ Dhí‘l-Hijjah is the twelfth and final month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which the annual pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca takes place and the festival of ‘Īd al-Adhá is observed. Although the Báb does not specify the year in this letter, it can be ascertained from His other writings—particularly the Khuṭbah-i-Jeddah (Sermon of Jeddah)—that the year was 1260 A.H. Thus, the exact date of His arrival in Mecca and His visitation of the Ka’bah was 1 Dhú ‘l-Hijjah 1260 A.H., corresponding to 12 December 1844 C.E.

performed the circumambulations of the House on behalf of those devoted souls whose hearts are turned thereto. May the Almighty, out of His grace and mercy, graciously accept this humble offering.

Upon departing from the precincts of Mecca, I was further honoured to reach, by the way of land, to the sanctified land of Madínatu'l-Ṭayyibih (the Pure City)¹⁰—peace and blessings be upon its Inhabitant. And, in like manner as in Mecca, I tarried in that hallowed land, and in the presence of the Messenger of God—may peace be upon Him and His holy family—and the pure Imáms—may the salutations of God be upon them—I offered, on behalf of the aforementioned ones, my salutations and homage.

I cherish the hope that, by virtue of the grace and bounty of My Lord, these humble deeds shall not be turned away. May the Lord of all being vouchsafe unto all His servants so sublime a bestowal.

Detailed missives were written and dispatched to Búshihr¹¹. Should this Letter, by the will of God, reach thee soon, I entreat thee to convey the news thereof to Shíráz and Búshihr, and kindly write a reply and dispatch it, that it may reach me upon my arrival in Búshihr, God willing.

The enclosed Letter should be delivered to Mírzá Muhammad Yazdí¹², who was a disciple of the late Hájí Siyyid Kázim—may God exalt his station. And if thou shouldst transmit it after perusing its contents, it would be most fitting.

And peace be upon you, and the mercy of God and His blessings.”

¹⁰ It is an honorific title for Medina, the city in Arabia where the Prophet Muhammad migrated and is buried. The name emphasizes the sanctity and spiritual excellence of the city.

¹¹ Búshihr (also spelled Bushehr) is a historic port city on the southwestern coast of Iran, serving as a key point of departure and return for Persian pilgrims journeying to the Hijáz. The Báb and His uncles, being merchants by profession, conducted much of their commercial activity in Búshihr, which was a significant center of trade at the time.

¹² Also known as Mírzá Muhammad Rawdih-Khán Yazdí, he was one of the Letters of the Living. After returning from Shíráz to Yazd, he concealed his identity as a Bábí due to intense persecution but continued to propagate the Faith in secret until the end of his life.

Letter of the Báb to His Uncle, Siyyid Ḥasan-‘Alí (Khál-i-Asghar): Based on a Typed Copy

بعرض عالی میرساند که هرگاه از طریق مرحمت جویای احوال حقیر باشید

الله الحمد و المنة حال تحریر که یوم بیست (و) سیم شهر ربیع الثانی است از سفر بیت الله رجوع به ارض مسقط نموده الحمد لله كما هو اهله صحت جسمانی برقرار است و با کمال خوبی الی الان گذشته است یوم اول ذی حجه مشرف به بیت الله شدم و بیست (و) هفت یوم در آن ارض مقدسه ساکن بودم و از قبل صاحبان حول بیت طواف مینمودم خداوند عالم از فضل و رحمت خود قبول فرماید و بعد از خروج از بلد مکه از سبیل بر مشرف به ارض مدینه طیبه صلوات الله علی ساکنها شده و به مثل وقوف در مکه در این ارض مقدس توقف نموده و در حضور حضرت رسول صلی الله علیه و آله و ائمه اطهار سلام الله علیهم ذکر سلام از قبل صاحبان مذکور شده امیدوار به فضل و احسان موالی خود هستم که از سبیل کرم و جود رد نفرموده باشند خداوند عالم همه عباد را به چنین فیض کبری مشرف فرماید خطوط مفصل به جهت بوشهر نوشته فرستادم هرگاه این خط انشاء الله تعالی زود رسید شیراز و بوشهر را اخبار فرموده باشید و جواب را مرقوم فرموده ارسال فرمایید که ورود بوشهر انشاء الله تعالی برسد و خط جوف را به میرزا محمد یزدی که شاگرد مرحوم حاجی سیدکاظم اعلی الله مقامه بودن برسانید و هرگاه بعد از مطالعه برسانید اولی خواهد بود والسلام علیکم و رحمة الله و برکاته

(Abú'l-Qásim Afnán, Ādh-i-A‘lá, pp. 79-80)

Letter of the Báb to His Uncle Siyyid Hasan-'Alí (Khál-i-Asghar), in His Own Hand

