

Story told by Mirza Abul Fazl; An incident in his prison

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Story told by Mirza Abul Fazl; An incident in his prison life

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When he was imprisoned in Teheran with eleven others, there was an old man among them by the name of Mirza Mohammed Reza He was well known for three rare qualities, firmness, fearlessness and truthfulness. He defied all the prison authorities by his courage; awed all the enemies by his firmness and set at naught the intrigues of all the foes through his truthfulness.

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"Whenever," Mirza Abul Fazl said, "one of the ministers of the court, Hajeb-Ed-Dowleh, came to the prison to investigate the conditions of some one, Mirza Mohammed Reza would run to him and keep on talking into his ears for a few minutes with great earnestness. Finally Hajeb-Ed-Dowleh would turn to him and with a despairing look say: "Sir, this is impossible. I cannot do it. Why did you not ask the Prince Nayeb-Os-Sultaneh about it? He can do it. He is the one in authority." At last one day we asked him, "What is this you are constantly asking the Hajeb Ed Dowich whenever he comes to the prison, and which he so emphatically refuses you?"

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He said: "I ask and plead with him to sentence me to death. I tell him I am an old man. I am no good to the world. I want to bathe my body in blood for the sake of BAHAOULLAH. Please! Please! I beg of you to do something for me. Is this too much of a favor that I ask of you? Are you not kind enough to fulfill this last wish of an old man? Praise be to God, that you are an influential man -- but he does not listen to me, and answers me loudly the way you have all heard.

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(From Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, August 4, 1913, - SW, Vol. 9, p. 214)
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1913 ?, Star of the West, Vol. 9, p. 214)

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