

GRADE 3 LESSON 12 DRAMA
SKIT BASED ON STORY 1

- Narrator
- MESSENGER
- Mullá Husayn
- Travel companions of Mullá Husayn
- Believer carrying a bag of gems

NARRATOR: It was the summer of 1848, only four years after the declaration of the Báb, and all of Persia was in a state of commotion. The Conference of Badasht had just concluded. Thousands upon thousands of people were accepting the Message of the Báb, but His enemies were arising in great force to persecute the followers of the new-born Faith. The Báb Himself was, as you know, imprisoned in a far-off corner of Persia. Quddús was confined in the house of a leading clergyman in the province of Mázinďarán, and even Bahá'u'lláh, Who belonged to the nobility of Persia, was subjected to suffering for His support of the Cause of the Báb. Mullá Husayn had spent the preceding months in the province of Khurásán proclaiming the Message of the Báb with extraordinary success.

MESSENGER (comes in looking tired and agitated): I have just arrived and need to speak with Mullá Husayn immediately!

Mullá Husayn walks in

Messenger to *Mullá Husayn*: Here is the Báb's turban and His instructions to raise the Black Standard, go to Mázinďarán and assist Quddús.

Messenger leaves

NARRATOR: The unfurling of a black flag, according to the Prophet Muḥammad, would signalize the coming of God's new Revelation.

Mullá Husayn: I will follow the instructions of my beloved Báb immediately! I will gather men to make this journey with me.

Mullá Husayn gathers a people to travel with him and they start the journey

NARRATOR: Mullá Husayn put the green turban on his head, raised the Black Standard, and, together with a company of two hundred and two men, began his journey from Khurásán to Mázinďarán. During the first part of the journey, every village this company of pious and courageous men entered received them with open arms. In each village, people would listen to the joyful news of the coming of the Promised Qá'im and numerous souls would accept the new Faith. A few even joined the group on their journey towards Mázinďarán. But as they approached Mázinďarán, Mullá Husayn began to warn them of the sufferings that were in store

for them. Pointing in the direction of Mázinďar n, he reminded them that this was the way that led to their martyrdom.

Mull  H sayn: Whoever was unprepared for the trials ahead, should leave and go back to his home.

NARRATOR: Several times he repeated this warning. Some twenty of Mull  H sayn's companions finally chose to leave, but the majority rode on, eager to sacrifice their lives in the path of their Beloved. As they neared the town of B rfur sh in M zinďar n, Mull  H sayn once again warned his companions of the fate that awaited them.

Mull  H sayn: throw away your belongings, except for your horses and swords, so that the inhabitants of the villages and towns we pass through would not think we are interested in material possessions.

Believer carrying a bag full of precious jewels: This is a bag full of gems from my father's mine in Khur s n,

Believer throws away the bag of gems

Other travelers: follow his example and rid themselves of the things of this world.

NARRATOR: The leading clergyman of B rfur sh was an arrogant and power-hungry man who was afraid of the influence the B b s were having on everyone with whom they came into contact. When he heard that Mull  H sayn and his companions were nearing B rfur sh, he sent his messengers out to gather the people in the mosque. There, in front of a large crowd, he climbed the pulpit, threw his turban to the ground, tore open the neck of his shirt, and announced that the worst enemies of the religion of God were but a short distance from the town. So persuasive was he in delivering his sermon full of lies that the crowd became angry, obeyed his command, armed itself, and went out to the nearby forest to attack this band of sanctified souls, whose only wish was to proclaim the glad- tidings of the dawn of a new age.

Mull  H sayn: There is a crowd coming our way, please be patient, I will try to reason with these misinformed people who had been deceived by their insincere and ambitious leader.

NARRATOR: The crowd opened fire on them and, one by one, seven of his companions fell to the ground.

Mull  H sayn (raise eyes to the heaven and pray): "Behold, O God, my God, the plight of Thy chosen companions, and witness the welcome which these people have accorded Thy loved ones. Thou knowest that we cherish no other desire than to guide them to the way of Truth and to confer upon them the knowledge of Thy Revelation. Thou hast Thyself commanded us to defend our lives against the assaults of the enemy. Faithful to Thy command, I now arise with my companions to resist the attack which they have launched against us."

Mull  H sayn and travel companions: draw your swords and charge into the midst of the enemy.

NARRATOR: So great was the courage displayed by this small company of God-fearing men that the hearts of their attackers were filled with fear. Mullá Husayn himself, unmindful of the bullets that rained upon him, forced his way through the ranks of the enemy and headed for Bárfurúsh. He rode straight to the residence of the leading clergyman who was to be blamed for the whole incident,

Mullá Husayn: circle the house three times and cry out: "Let that contemptible coward, who has incited the inhabitants of this town to wage holy warfare against us and has ignominiously concealed himself behind the walls of his house, emerge from his inglorious retreat. . . . Has he forgotten that he who preaches a holy war must need himself march at the head of his followers, and by his own deeds kindle their devotion and sustain their enthusiasm?"

NARRATOR: The people of Bárfurúsh were dumbfounded by these acts of heroism and bravery. "Peace, peace!" they began to cry out as they sent a few of their leaders to ask for mercy and forgiveness from Mullá Husayn. Mullá Husayn knew that they were not sincere and would repeat their cruel acts the moment they had another chance, yet he accepted their plea, and peace was established, at least for that day. Mullá Husayn and his companions then rode triumphantly to the large guest house in the town plaza and set down to rest.