

Skit: The Departure from Shíráz

Characters:

- **Narrator:** Guides the audience through the events.
- **Manúchihr Khán:** The just and noble governor.
- **Soldiers (5-6 students, or more depending on your group size):**
Escort the Báb.
- **Clergy 1 and Clergy 2:** Two clergy members who plot against the Báb.
- **Messenger:** A person who delivers messages to Manúchihr Khán.

Act 1: The Departure Begins

Narrator:

Two years after the Báb made His declaration, the country was filled with excitement. The Báb decided to travel north from Shíráz to the city of Isfahán, where He was welcomed by the people. However, not everyone was happy about His growing influence...

(Clergy 1 and Clergy 2 enter, speaking quietly and angrily.)

Clergy 1:

The Báb's influence is growing too fast! We must stop Him before He leads even more of our people away.

Clergy 2:

Yes! We must plot against Him, but how?

Narrator:

But the governor of Isfahán, Manúchihr Khán, was a just and truth-seeking man. He had heard about the plots against the Báb and decided to protect Him.

(Manúchihr Khán enters and sits at his desk. A messenger rushes in, whispering to him.)

Messenger:

Your Excellency, the clergy are planning against the Báb. They are plotting as we speak!

Manúchihr Khán:

We must protect Him. I have a plan...

(turning to the audience)

I will order five hundred of my horsemen to escort the Báb. After every few kilometers, one hundred will return until only a few remain. Then, they will bring Him back to Isfahán in disguise. This will ensure His safety!

Narrator:

And so it was done. The Báb was safely escorted out of the city, and thanks to the governor's plan, He remained in safety for four months in Isfahán.

Act 2: Manúchihr Khán's Noble Offer

Narrator:

While the Báb stayed with Manúchihr Khán, the governor grew fond of Him and recognized the truth of His message. One day, while sitting together in the garden, Manúchihr Khán made a noble offer.

(Manúchihr Khán and the Messenger sit together in the garden. The soldiers stand in the background, listening.)

Manúchihr Khán:

I have great riches, and I do not know the best way to use them. I want to dedicate all I have to the promotion of this new Cause. I will even offer my army to help spread this message across the land.

(The soldiers nod in agreement, showing their support.)

Narrator:

Though the governor's offer was sincere, the Báb told him that the new Faith would not triumph through wealth and power but through the sacrifices of the poor and lowly.

Act 3: Trust in God

Narrator:

The Báb also told the governor that his days were numbered. He would soon pass away and leave the world behind.

Messenger:

My governor, the Báb has spoken of your passing. You only have three months and nine days left to live.

Manúchihr Khán:

Then I will prepare myself. I will write my will and ensure that all I have is given to this sacred Cause.

(pauses, looking concerned)

But what will happen when I am gone? Who will protect the Báb?

Narrator:

But the Báb reassured him, saying, “Fear not, for I have committed Myself into the hands of God.”

Manúchihr Khán:

I trust in God’s plan. I will ensure all is in order before I leave this world.

Act 4: Manúchihr Khán’s Death

Narrator:

And so it came to pass, just as the Báb had said. Manúchihr Khán passed away after three months and nine days. Despite his efforts to protect the Báb and leave his wealth for the Cause, his successor ignored his wishes, took his wealth, and ended the protection the Báb had enjoyed.

Soldier 1:

The new governor has taken everything! The wealth and protection are gone.

Soldier 2:

What will happen now?

Narrator:

But the Báb had always placed His trust in God, and so the story continues with faith and sacrifice leading the way forward. The story of the Báb’s departure from Shíráz reminds us of the importance of trust in God’s plan and the sacrifices made by those who believed in His message. Although worldly powers may rise and fall, the victory of truth will always prevail.