

**Selections from ‘A Dress for Mona’ (Act I, Scene 2 alt – 1 female, 2 males)**

*Mona* 16; friendly and bright, not yet a saint  
*Árám* 16; son of a Mulla, a bit peculiar, in love with Mona  
*Soheil* older youth, works at the House of the Bab

*Scene -- The courtyard of the House of the Bab. Soheil is working on some rose bushes, gardening. Mona enters, evidently perturbed.*

MONA  
Hi Soheil.

SOHEIL  
Hi Mona, how are you?

MONA  
Okay.

SOHEIL  
You seem a little mad.

MONA  
This boy at the store stole a dress right out from underneath my nose.

SOHEIL  
Did you tell the owner?

MONA  
He didn't steal the dress, literally. But it was perfect for me, and I turn my back and it's gone, and all I see is the back of this guy going out!

SOHEIL  
There will be other dresses, my dear.

MONA  
No, this was the same dress Bahá'u'lláh offered me in a dream last night.

SOHEIL  
Really?

MONA  
Same color blue, and I find it at this shop, and then it's gone.

SOHEIL  
Tough luck.

MONA

I checked all the other shops, none of them had it.

SOHEIL

Well, I'm sure if Baha'u'llah wants you to have that dress, He'll find away of getting it to you.

MONA

This dream is very important. I'm thinking I should go in and pray for an answer, or some guidance for what it might mean. (*She goes to leave.*)

SOHEIL

That's right, and who knows? By the time you come out, the answer may be right here staring you in the face. (*Before she leaves--*) How old are you now?

MONA

Sixteen. Why?

SOHEIL

No reason. (*She enters the house.*) So young, so young.

*[Soheil takes his work elsewhere. Another young man, ARAM, appears at the gate of the house. Mona reenters.]*

MONA

Soheil, I need a prayer book--- (*Sees Aram.*) Who are you?

ARAM

Marry me.

MONA

What?

ARAM

Be my lover.

MONA

What are you talking about?

ARAM

You should probably tell me your name first.

MONA

I don't even know who you are!

ARAM

Sure you do, I'm the man of your dreams.

MONA

Soheil!

ARAM

He left.

MONA

You have no right cornering me like this.

SOHEIL

What's wrong?

MONA

There's a man at the gate.

ARAM (*Eyes still on Mona.*)

Hi Soheil.

SOHEIL

Aram, what are you doing here?

ARAM

I was just introducing myself to your friend...

SOHEIL

He's okay, he's only a boy that lives down the street.

ARAM

I am a man!

SOHEIL

Oh right, don't let him scare you, Mona...

ARAM

Ah... Mona!

MONA

He didn't scare me.... I just didn't know who he was.

ARAM

Mona-Mona-Mona.

MONA

What?

Mona-Mona-Mona... ARAM

Yes this is my name. MONA

Your name is Mona-Mona-Mona? ARAM

Just the one. MONA

You said “Mona-Mona-Mona” was your name. ARAM

No, I didn’t. You said that. MONA

You said this is my name. ARAM

I meant Mona. MONA

I like “Mona-Mona-Mona.” And that’s what I’m going to call you. ARAM

Fine. But it’s not my name. MONA

You better get out of here before your father sees you. SOHEIL

Soheil, I took one look at your friend and decided that destiny is not something to run away from. Nothing can hold it back or frustrate it. This one is mine. ARAM

He’s always talked like this. SOHEIL

I have something for you. (*Holds out a package.*) Go ahead, it’s not a snake. ARAM

*Mona opens it to find a blue dress.*

MONA

Where did you get this?

ARAM

Straight from heaven, for an angel like you.

MONA

Wait, turn around. (*He does.*) You're the boy who bought this and ran away!

ARAM

The MAN!

MONA

Well I don't want it now.

ARAM

But it's your dress. I bought it for you.

MONA

Why?

ARAM

It was the only way I could see to get to know you.

MONA (*A little torn.*)

You have no idea what this dress means to me, but I can't accept it as a gift from a boy.

ARAM

I'm not taking it back.

MONA

Okay then—Soheil, you take it. (*She hands the package to Soheil and enters the house.*)

ARAM

She's exactly as I imagined she'd be.

SOHEIL

Yeah. Completely out of your league.

[*End of scene.*]