

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

## Messengers from One God

### A Brief Timeline

#### The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

#### 1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

#### 1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

#### 1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

#### 1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

#### 1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

#### 1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

#### 1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

#### 1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

#### 1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

**W**ho are your favorite teachers? Throughout our lives, our teachers introduce us to new ideas and valuable skills. They challenge us to do our best. Humanity also has Teachers, sent by God throughout history, to help us learn and grow. These Teachers, or Messengers of God, include Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh, among others. They are also known as Manifestations of God. Bahá'u'lláh wrote about Them in a book called the Kitáb-i-Íqán, which means "Book of Certitude" in Arabic.

In 1862, Bahá'u'lláh was living in Baghdád, Iraq. He was exiled there from His home in Persia (now Iran) because He was a follower of the Messenger of God known as the Báb. The Báb taught that another Messenger would soon come to unite the world in peace. He and His followers, called Bábís, were persecuted by the Muslim authorities, who wanted to end the new faith. The Báb was executed in 1850. More than 20,000 Bábís were killed for their beliefs.

Several of the Báb's family members were Bábís, but one of His uncles, Hájí Mírzá Siyyid Muhammad, did not believe in the Báb. When he went to Bahá'u'lláh and shared his doubts, Bahá'u'lláh told him to write down his questions. Then, in two days and nights, Bahá'u'lláh answered them, revealing a book over 200 pages long! He later named it the Kitáb-i-Íqán.

In the Kitáb-i-Íqán, Bahá'u'lláh explained the role of God's Messengers and praised Their lives and teachings. He described Them as Mirrors reflecting all of God's qualities, such as knowledge, wisdom, and glory. He wrote, "Human tongue can never befittingly sing their praise, and human



The Manifestations of God, such as Krishna, Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh, are like different rays of the same sun.

speech can never unfold their mystery." He said prejudice caused many people to reject God's Messengers when They first appeared.

Bahá'u'lláh wrote that although each Messenger of God has a different name and mission, They "all arise to proclaim His irresistible Faith . . ." Each religion is part of one unfolding faith from God. The Bahá'í writings say that although God's Messengers founded religions with some different laws and teachings, many essential truths remain the same. For example, the world's faiths teach us to treat others with kindness.

After reading Bahá'u'lláh's words in the Kitáb-i-Íqán, the Báb's uncle became a devoted believer in the Báb. Bahá'u'lláh later announced that He was the Messenger the Báb had promised. The Báb's uncle also declared his belief in Bahá'u'lláh.

Today, the Kitáb-i-Íqán still helps people understand God's Messengers. The Bahá'í writings describe it as "sweeping away the age-long barriers that have . . . separated the great religions of the world . . ." Bahá'u'lláh's teachings can bring peace and unity among people of all faiths by helping us see the oneness of all of God's Messengers.