

## A Brief Timeline

The highlighted area below marks the time in which this story takes place in the life of Bahá'u'lláh.

### 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.

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Letters to World Leaders

**W**hy would a prisoner write to the rulers of the world? To ask for help? Beg for freedom? Though Bahá'u'lláh had committed no crime, He was persecuted and imprisoned for much of His life. Yet when He wrote



Bahá'u'lláh wrote to many world leaders from inside the walls of this prison in 'Akká, Israel.

to the world's leaders, it wasn't to ask for help—He encouraged them to uphold justice and establish world peace.

The government and religious officials of Persia (now Iran) and Turkey felt threatened by His growing Bahá'í Faith.

To stop His influence, they exiled Him far from His home. Yet, over several years, starting in 1867, He wrote to the sháh of Persia, the sultán of Turkey, the queen of England, the emperor of France, the pope, and others.

He wrote, "Be vigilant, that ye may not do injustice to anyone . . ." He advised them to "compose your differences, and reduce your armaments." And He conveyed His vision of world peace, where all nations will work together for the good of all humanity.

## Practice "Justice" in Arabic Calligraphy

Bahá'u'lláh revealed His letters to the world rulers in Arabic. Arabic calligraphy is a widely admired art form. Traditionally, the pen (*qalam*) is made from a dried reed. Its flexibility allows graceful, sweeping lines.

Today, a calligraphy marker with a slanted tip is often used. The 3 mm size is good for beginners. You would usually start learning



An ink spoon (top) and reed pen used by Bahá'u'lláh for calligraphy.

Arabic calligraphy by learning its alphabet, which has 28 letters. The form of a letter can vary, depending on whether it falls in the beginning, middle, or end of a word.

Practice writing the Arabic word "*adl*," or "justice." Arabic is read from right to left, so start at the right side of the page. Hold the pen very gently in your hand, and follow the numbered arrows.

