

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

Sharing His Teachings

Why are we here? How should we live our lives? What happens when we die? Throughout history, God has sent Teachers to help us answer these kinds of questions. Like Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad, and other Messengers of God before Him, Bahá'u'lláh brought divine teachings for our age. The religion He founded, the Bahá'í Faith, offers a message of peace, unity, and hope.

Bahá'u'lláh was called Mírzá Husayn-'Alí when He was born in Tíhrán, Persia (now Iran), in 1817. As a child of a wealthy nobleman, He didn't attend school, yet He was remarkably wise and could talk about difficult religious teachings with Muslim leaders. "Bahá'u'lláh," the title He would later take, means "Glory of God" in Arabic.

Bahá'u'lláh was always kind and generous. As a young man, He was offered an important job in the government, but He didn't accept it.

Instead, He chose to share His time and money with those in need. People called Him "Father of the Poor."

Vision in a Dungeon

When He was 27, Bahá'u'lláh became a follower of a new Messenger of God known as the Báb, which means "the Gate." The Báb taught that another Messenger would soon come to lead the world to unity.

Islamic authorities wanted to stop the Báb and His teachings. They executed Him in 1850. His followers, called Bábís, were persecuted terribly. More than 20,000 were killed.

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was put in heavy chains and thrown into a dungeon called the "Black Pit" with other Bábís. Each day, a Bábí was pulled from the dungeon, tortured, and executed. Bahá'u'lláh's family feared He would be killed. Meanwhile, their home was ransacked, and they were forced to flee.

Bahá'u'lláh spent four months in the filthy, vermin-infested Black Pit. Even in these miserable conditions, Bahá'u'lláh's spirit soared. It was during this time that He had a mystical experience that would change His life. He saw a vision of an angel, a radiant maiden, who called Bahá'u'lláh the "Best-Beloved of the worlds." He later wrote that "the breezes of the All-Glorious were wafted over Me, and taught Me the knowledge of all that hath been." After this vision, Bahá'u'lláh began to reveal holy writings.

Unstoppable Mission

When He was released from prison, Bahá'u'lláh was banished from His homeland. He went to Baghdád, Iraq. Still, He continued to share His message of unity. He taught that the human race is one family and religion should be a cause of peace, not war. He called on all people to work for



November 12, 1817

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran. His home in Tíhrán is shown here.



1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán. The "X" marks the site of the prison.



1853–1863

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

April 22, 1863

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

“These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come . . .” —Bahá’u’lláh



the betterment of the world. “All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization,” He wrote. In time, He announced that He was the Messenger of God Whom the Báb had foretold.

For the rest of His life, Bahá’u’lláh lived in exile or imprisonment in what are now Iraq, Turkey, and Israel. His family shared in His sufferings. At times, they endured strenuous journeys, had very little food, lived in cramped quarters, and faced prejudice and hostility from those around them. The government thought that by sending Bahá’u’lláh away, they could stop His teachings from spreading.

But Bahá’u’lláh’s divine mission for a peaceful world was unstoppable. His exiles only carried the seeds of His Faith even farther. Bahá’u’lláh wrote more than 100 volumes worth of

At right is Arabic calligraphy meaning “Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá” or “O Thou Glory of Glories!” It refers to Bahá’u’lláh.

letters, tablets, and books. When He passed away in 1892, He left a written will naming His eldest son, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, as leader of the Bahá’í Faith.



Making a Vision Real

Bahá’u’lláh’s writings, along with those of the Báb and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, make up the sacred Bahá’í scriptures. The original writings are kept in the International Bahá’í Archives at the Bahá’í World Center in Haifa, Israel.

Nearby, the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh at Bahjí is the holiest spot on Earth for Bahá’ís. The Báb is buried in a majestic shrine on Mount Carmel in Haifa. Bahá’u’lláh’s wife, Navváb, and their three children are also laid to rest on Mount Carmel. Bahá’ís try to go on a pilgrimage to these and other holy places at least once during their lifetime.

More than five million Bahá’ís around the world study Bahá’u’lláh’s life of sacrifice and teachings of peace, striving to make His vision of one unified world a reality.

Bahá’u’lláh’s Teachings

Bahá’u’lláh shared these steps to peace. Imagine what the world will be like when these principles are practiced.

- Establish world peace
- We are one family
- World religions are from one God
- Prejudice must end
- Women and men are equal
- Education for all
- Economic justice



1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey, where He lives in this home for one year. He begins writing to kings and rulers in 1867, urging 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 of ‘Akká

May 29, 1892

Bahá’u’lláh passes away and is laid to rest in this shrine at Bahjí, in Israel.

