

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

## A Friend to Baghdád

### 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 Tihrán, Iran

#### 1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

#### 1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán

#### 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.

Have you ever moved to a new place or felt like an outsider? Bahá'u'lláh and His family faced this challenge when they were exiled from Tihrán, Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád, Iraq, in 1853.

In a community that was mostly Muslim, they were Bábís—followers of a Messenger of God known as the Báb ("the Gate" in Arabic). The Báb taught people to see women as equal to men, end extreme poverty, and live spiritual lives. He said a new Messenger would soon appear. The sháh of Iran, or king, expected that sending Bahá'u'lláh away would stop His growing influence as a Bábí leader.

However, exile had the opposite effect—Bahá'u'lláh's kindness and love attracted people to Him wherever He went! The Bábí community in Baghdád grew, and they became known and respected for their integrity. Bahá'u'lláh taught people—by His words and actions—to be more honest, trustworthy, patient, kind, and generous. He sent gifts to everyone in His neighborhood—especially the poor and disabled.

In Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh visited a coffeehouse every day. Along the road where He walked, an elderly woman who was very poor lived in a run-down house. Despite her age, the woman went to the roadside every day to wait for Bahá'u'lláh to pass. He always stopped, asked about her health, and gave her some money. She kissed His hands in gratitude, and sometimes she tried to kiss His face. The woman was so short, He had to bend down for her to reach Him.



In Baghdád in the 19th century, coffeehouses were popular meeting places for conversation. People often gathered in such settings to discuss religious teachings.

"She knows that I like her," Bahá'u'lláh told His companions. "That is why she likes Me." When He left Baghdád in 1863, He made sure she had an allowance and was taken care of for the rest of her days.

Bahá'u'lláh made many new friends during His 10 years in Baghdád. He was admired by rich and poor, scholars, government officials, and merchants. In fact, when it came time for Him to leave, so many people from all walks of life crowded His home that there wasn't room for everyone. He didn't turn them away. Instead, He invited them to join Him in a garden called Ridván ("Paradise" in Arabic), where they could say goodbye and enjoy the blessings of His love and friendship one last time.

In this garden, Bahá'u'lláh announced His station as a Messenger of God—the Messenger that the Báb had announced almost 20 years earlier. In the coming years, His religion grew. Today, the Bahá'í Faith's message of peace continues to spread around the world.

“Now is the time to cheer and refresh the down-cast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity.” — Bahá’u’lláh



Many people had grown to love Bahá’u’lláh during His 10 years in Baghdád. They lined the roads and rooftops to wave goodbye when He left the city for the Ridván Garden on the Tigris River.

Find these qualities of a true friend. Look for words going backward, forward, up, down, or diagonally.

CARING	T	Q	L	O	V	I	N	G	R	A	S	P	H	Y
COMPASSIONATE	D	P	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	H	A	E	U
ENCOURAGING	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	E	M
FORGIVING	A	K	Y	M	L	Y	U	G	Z	I	R	I	G	C
FRIENDLY	R	W	L	C	U	I	P	A	V	D	I	E	F	L
GENEROUS	I	V	D	D	F	I	P	R	U	N	N	N	F	U
HONEST	N	O	N	A	T	Z	O	U	D	A	G	T	O	F
JOYFUL	G	I	E	Y	H	T	R	O	W	T	S	U	R	T
KIND	K	R	I	L	G	T	T	C	W	S	P	T	G	C
LOVING	N	U	R	T	U	R	I	N	G	R	S	P	I	E
NURTURING	L	U	F	Y	O	J	V	E	T	E	Y	M	V	P
PATIENT	Y	Y	T	F	H	Q	E	Q	N	D	S	O	I	S
RESPECTFUL	B	C	E	O	T	Z	S	O	O	N	B	T	N	E
SHARING	X	T	M	W	U	S	H	Z	R	U	W	J	G	R
SUPPORTIVE														
THOUGHTFUL														
TRUSTWORTHY														
UNDERSTANDING														