

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace "For Love and Unity"

## 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.

For more than half of His life, Bahá'u'lláh lived as a prisoner and an exile. During His divine mission to spread God's message of unity and peace, authorities who were prejudiced against Him tried to stop Him—but they were unsuccessful. In spite of their efforts, Bahá'u'lláh won the hearts of people from all walks of life.

In 1877, Bahá'u'lláh was able to leave the prison-city of 'Akká, in what is now Israel. He moved to a nearby countryside mansion for two years. Then He lived in the Mansion of Bahjí, closer to 'Akká, for nearly 13 years, revealing holy writings and meeting with visitors.

About a week before He left this world, Bahá'u'lláh gathered His family and followers. He said, "I am well pleased with you all. Ye have rendered many services, and been very assiduous in your labors. Ye have come here every morning and every evening. May God assist you to remain united."

After a brief illness, Bahá'u'lláh passed away on May 29, 1892, at the age of 74. Just after sunset on that day, He was buried in a small stone house next to the mansion.

Friends from various religions and backgrounds, including government officials, came to grieve with Bahá'u'lláh's family. Many could be seen crying aloud in the fields surrounding the mansion. Some wrote tributes to Him. The family generously served food to all the mourning visitors.

Nine days after His passing, Bahá'u'lláh's Will and Testament was unsealed. In it, He told His followers to turn to His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, for guidance. Only 'Abdu'l-Bahá was authorized to interpret Bahá'u'lláh's writings. This was the first time in known history



Bahá'ís from all over the world travel to Israel for pilgrimage, a highlight of which is praying at the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

that the Founder of a world religion had clearly stated whom people should follow after His death. It ensured that His Faith would remain united, instead of splitting into sects, and that His followers would not argue over who would lead them.

In His Will, Bahá'u'lláh wrote that His aim had been "to quench the flame of hate and enmity, that the horizon of the hearts of men may be illumined with the light of concord and attain real peace and tranquility." He also urged, "The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension." Bahá'u'lláh's final wishes reflected His mission to unify all people.

Over the years, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and his grandson, Shoghi Effendi, beautified the gardens around Bahá'u'lláh's Shrine. It is the holiest place on Earth for Bahá'ís, and the place toward which they turn in prayer each day. Today, more than five million Bahá'ís are working to share Bahá'u'lláh's message of peace and create a more united world.