Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace
Letters of Light

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.

Imagine a lone prisoner writing to the world's leaders, urging them to rule justly and establish peace. Bahá'u'lláh did just that in 1867. He wrote from Adrianople (now Edirne, Turkey) and later from the prison-city of 'Akká, in what is now Israel. Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, He was exiled and imprisoned because He proclaimed a new faith.

But nothing could stop Bahá'u'lláh's message of peace and unity. He wrote to rulers including Queen Victoria of England, Napoleon III of France, Pope Pius IX, and Czar Alexander II of Russia. He even addressed the Persian king, Násiri'd-Dín Sháh, and the Turkish leader, Sultán 'Abdu'l-'Azíz, who were responsible for His imprisonments and exiles.

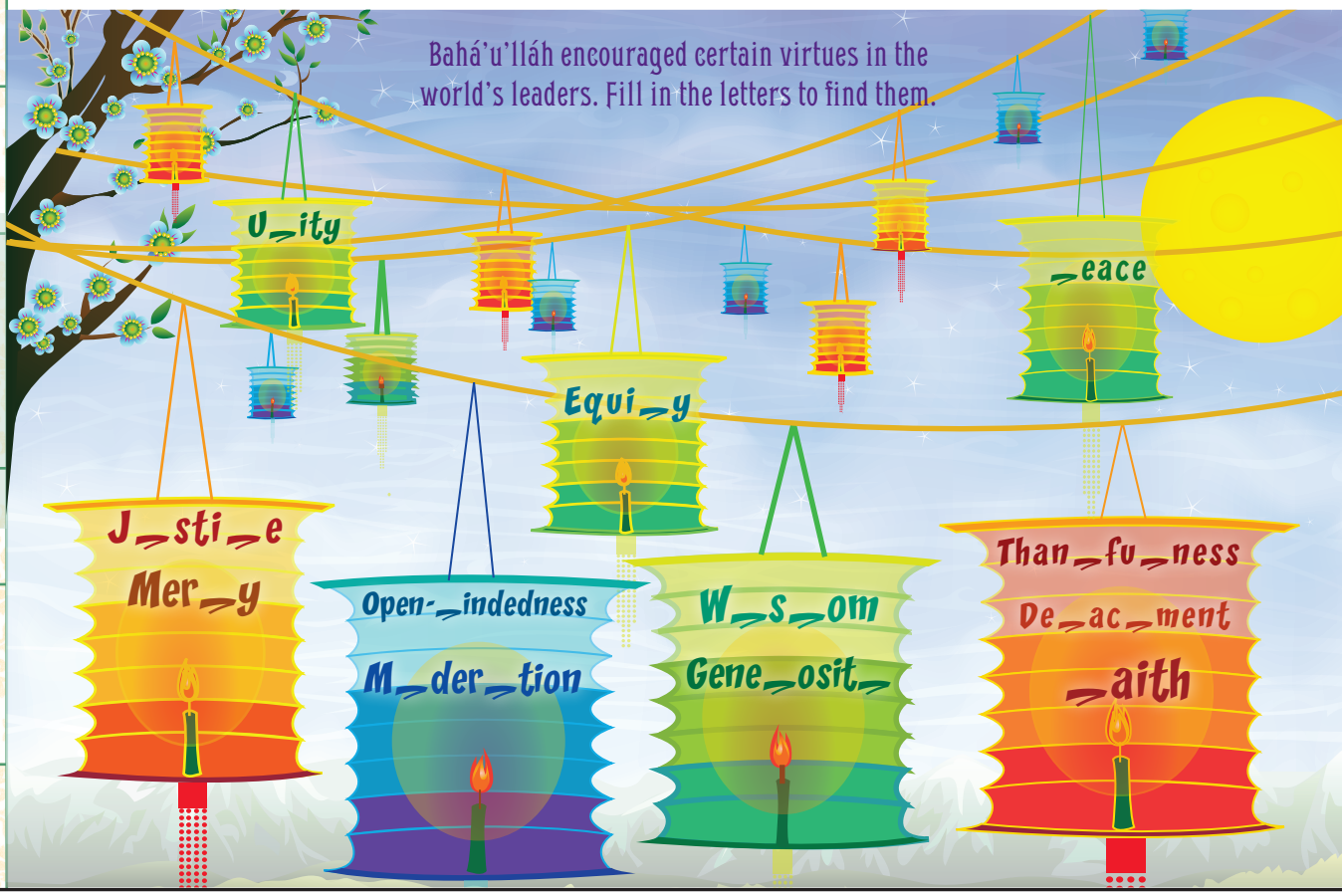


Outside the prison in 'Akká where Bahá'u'lláh was held

Bahá'u'lláh didn't ask to be released from prison or request any personal favors. Instead, He praised positive actions, such as ending slavery. He encouraged leaders to unite and reduce their weapons. Only by collectively acting against war, He said, could they establish lasting peace and justice.

Bahá'u'lláh's son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, conveyed the courage and power of his father's actions in a talk delivered in New York in 1912. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said of the rulers who persecuted Bahá'u'lláh, "Although they were determined upon extinguishing the light in that most brilliant lantern . . . day by day His splendor became more radiant."

Today, more than five million Bahá'ís around the globe continue to work toward world unity.



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SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 28