Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Uniting a Community

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.

When serious disunity strikes, what's the wisest way to handle it?

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled from His home in Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád, Iraq. His only crime was being a Bábí—a follower of the Báb, a Messenger of God who had promised that another Messenger would soon appear to bring an era of peace.

The Bábís and the people of Baghdád were drawn to Bahá'u'lláh's kindness and majesty, and He soon had many admirers. But Mírzá Yahyá, Bahá'u'lláh's half-brother, was jealous of Bahá'u'lláh's popularity. He and a man named Siyyid Muhammad spread lies about Bahá'u'lláh. Mírzá Yahyá even claimed to be the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb.

Bahá'u'lláh was deeply saddened by the disunity these men caused. He left Baghdád for the remote mountains of Kurdistan and stayed away for two years. He later wrote that His goal was "to avoid becoming a subject of discord . . . or the cause of sorrow to any heart." Alone in the wilderness, He prayed, meditated, and revealed holy writings.

When Bahá'u'lláh returned, He found the Bábí community dejected and confused. Some followed Mírzá Yahyá, while others split into groups. At least 25 people had claimed to be the Báb's successor!

Bahá'u'lláh's powerful presence and words transformed the Bábí community. "We revealed, as a copious rain, Our verses . . . " Bahá'u'lláh wrote, "and by the grace of God, waywardness and folly were changed into piety and understanding . . . "

The renewed Bábís held joyful gatherings, sharing songs and poetry. "Many a night," wrote one Bábí, "no less than ten persons subsisted on no more than a pennyworth of dates." At the end of the night, they didn't know or care whose shoes they wore home. Unity returned to the Bábí community, and people looked to Bahá'u'lláh for leadership. In time, He revealed the wondrous news that He was the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb.

Connect the letters in the date tree to form words related to the story. Letters can be used more than once.

Admiration • Kindness • Joyful • Leadership
Majesty • Meditation • Powerful • Prayer
Transformed • Understanding • Unity • Wisdom

