

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Declaration in the Garden of Ridván

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.

In 1853, Bahá'u'lláh and His family endured a harsh exile to Baghdád, Iraq, from their homeland in Persia (now Iran). Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, Muslim leaders wanted to diminish His influence as a leader in the Bábí Faith. The Bábís followed a Messenger of God known as the Báb ("Gate" in Arabic), who taught that a new Messenger from God would soon arrive.

Many Bábís in Persia had been killed for their faith, and the Bábís living in Baghdád feared persecution. They didn't meet each other in public. But Bahá'u'lláh visited the Bábís and let people know that He was a Bábí. His courageous example inspired others, and they began to venture out. Soon people from all walks of life were drawn to Bahá'u'lláh's loving presence. They sought His wisdom and advice.

But in time, the Muslim authorities again felt threatened by Bahá'u'lláh's prominence in the city. In 1863, it was announced that He was being sent to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Those who knew and loved Him were devastated. People flocked to His house to say goodbye, but His home was too small. A friend invited Him to use his garden on the Tigris River. Bahá'u'lláh and some of the Bábís gathered in the garden on April 22, 1863.

Bahá'u'lláh's departure was a sad occasion, but something amazing happened on that day. Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Promised One foretold by the Báb. His followers



Bahá'u'lláh crossed the Tigris River to the rose-filled Garden of Ridván to say farewell to friends and to make a magnificent announcement.

were overjoyed. The farewell gathering became a wondrous spiritual occasion, and the garden became known as the Garden of Ridván ("Paradise" in Arabic).

For 12 days, Bahá'u'lláh met with friends who visited Him in the garden, including the governor himself. He admired Bahá'u'lláh greatly and asked how he could help with His journey. Bahá'u'lláh only requested that the Bábís in Baghdád be treated with kindness. The governor readily agreed.

Each day, gardeners would pick roses and place them in Bahá'u'lláh's tent. The flowers were piled so high that people couldn't see over them! Bahá'u'lláh had the roses taken to friends in Baghdád. At night, He walked and chanted prayers among the songs of nightingales.

Today, Bahá'ís around the world joyfully celebrate the Festival of Ridván, which Bahá'u'lláh named the "Most Great Festival."

“In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .” — Bahá’u’lláh

In the rose bush, discover words related to the story of Bahá’u’lláh’s declaration in the Garden of Ridván. Fill in the blank roses with letters. Connected roses have the same letter.

