

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Guidance for Global Leaders

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 being on a dangerous 12-day journey, riding in wagons or on pack animals. It's the middle of winter, and the bitter cold cuts through your thin clothes. The only way to get drinking water is to build a fire that melts the ice.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh, His family, and about a dozen companions faced these hardships. Though He had committed no crime, Muslim officials saw Bahá'u'lláh's influence as a threat, and He was exiled from Constantinople (now Istanbul) to Adrianople (now Edirne), Turkey.

Soon after Bahá'u'lláh arrived in Adrianople, people began noticing His noble character and kindness. Top officials, including the governor, visited Him. People bowed to Him in the streets.

Bahá'u'lláh spent much of His time revealing holy writings. "Day and night," wrote one eyewitness, "the Divine verses were raining down in such number that it was impossible to record them."

Although He was living in exile, Bahá'u'lláh fearlessly conveyed His teachings to some of the world's most powerful kings and leaders. He wrote to Sultán 'Abdu'l-'Azíz, who ruled the Ottoman Empire (including what are now Turkey and Israel), as well as to Násiri'd-Dín Sháh of Persia (now Iran). He addressed Tsar Alexander II of Russia, Emperor Napoleon III of France, Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany,

Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary, and Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. He also wrote to the Pope, the rulers of the American continent, and all leaders on Earth as a group.

Bahá'u'lláh called upon these powerful people to turn to God and lead fairly. "Be vigilant, that ye may not do injustice to anyone," He wrote, "be it to the extent

of a grain of mustard seed."

He told them to cooperate and establish peace on Earth. "Compose your differences and reduce your

armaments . . . that your minds and hearts may be tranquilized."

And He advised them to live moderately. "Your people are your treasures," He wrote. "Do not rob them to rear palaces for yourselves; nay rather choose for them that which ye choose for yourselves."

Some rulers responded angrily to Bahá'u'lláh. Napoleon reportedly flung away the first of two Tablets he received, and ordered an impolite reply. Badí, a 17-year-old who voluntarily took Bahá'u'lláh's message to the sháh in Persia, was tortured and killed. Only Queen Victoria, whom Bahá'u'lláh praised for ending slavery, was open-minded. She was said to have noted, "If this is of God, it will endure; if not, it can do no harm."

Today, millions of Bahá'ís use Bahá'u'lláh's words as a blueprint for building peace and justice.



House of Bahá'u'lláh in Edirne, Turkey

“Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily, is the straight path.” — Bahá’u’lláh



Bahá’u’lláh called Adrianople the “remote prison.” It was over 1,740 miles (2,800 km) from Iran, the farthest He was exiled from His homeland.

Find words from Bahá’u’lláh’s Tablets to the kings and rulers of the world.

DUTY	M	O	D	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	N	Y	Y	S
FAIRNESS	S	E	T	M	A	K	P	H	Y	B	T	C	T	S
GENEROSITY	A	T	C	G	E	V	N	Y	T	I	Y	E	I	C
GRACE	F	L	E	I	R	R	T	O	S	U	A	E	N	H
HEAL	E	O	T	P	T	U	C	O	W	D	R	Y	U	U
JUSTICE	G	M	O	Z	D	S	R	Y	F	L	W	T	M	N
KNOWLEDGE	U	I	R	T	Y	E	U	A	N	K	E	O	A	X
MERCY	A	G	P	O	N	S	S	J	Z	M	D	D	U	K
MIGHT	R	H	Z	E	I	T	P	T	F	S	A	N	G	W
MODERATION	D	T	G	S	S	E	N	R	I	A	F	Z	H	E
PEACE	H	E	A	L	A	Y	B	W	G	R	A	C	E	O
POWER	Q	C	J	C	R	E	W	O	P	O	H	X	Z	L
PROTECT	N	S	E	Z	H	W	L	W	M	P	L	R	B	J
SAFEGUARD	A	M	K	L	V	J	Z	A	L	Q	Z	A	L	U
STEADFAST														
TRUTH														
WISDOM														
UNITY														