

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

## Injustice in Constantinople

### 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

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.

**W**hat do you do when you see injustice happen in front of you? Do you ignore it to keep the peace, or do you stand up for what's right, even when it's difficult?

Bahá'u'lláh and His companions faced those questions in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). The sultán of the Ottoman Empire exiled Him from Baghdád to Constantinople in 1863. Though Bahá'u'lláh was innocent, Persian officials who wanted Him sent farther away convinced the sultán to banish Him.

Bahá'u'lláh and His companions traveled for 110 days through summer heat with little food and water because of a famine in the area. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, was 19 years old. He helped to obtain food when it was scarce and worked tirelessly to make the journey easier for everyone.

When Bahá'u'lláh arrived in Constantinople, officials assumed that He would ask for money or political favors to gain support for His faith. They visited Him, expecting that He would want to start a relationship with them. But Bahá'u'lláh was not interested in such schemes. "I have no wish to ask favor from them," He said. "My work is not of their world; it is of another realm, far removed from their province. Why, therefore, should I seek these people?"\*

Bahá'u'lláh's response surprised most officials. They had never met a man of influence with such little interest in deal-making. Bahá'u'lláh's attitude bothered the Persian ambassador to Constantinople, and he began to spread



Throughout His lifetime, Bahá'u'lláh's exiles from His home in Tihrán, Persia (now Iran) covered about 3,000 miles (4,828 km).

rumors about Bahá'u'lláh and His followers. His lies eventually reached the sultán. Without investigating the matter for himself, the sultán ordered Bahá'u'lláh to leave Constantinople less than four months after He'd arrived.

The order was unjust, and Bahá'u'lláh refused. Neither He nor His companions had done anything wrong. "Our innocence is manifestly evident, and they have no alternative but to declare their injustice," He said.\*\* He encouraged His companions to stand firm.

But a few of those with Him were frightened and began plotting to save themselves. Bahá'u'lláh saw that discord was brewing among His community and decided to accept the banishment rather than allow their unity to be destroyed.

However, He wrote the sultán a long tablet explaining the injustice of his order. He also wrote to the Persian ambassador who had started the rumors about Him, telling him that His Cause "transcends any and every plan ye devise . . . Were all the governments on earth to unite and take My life and the lives of all who bear

# “The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice . . .” —Bahá’u’lláh

this Name, this Divine Fire would never be quenched.”

On December 1, 1863, Bahá’u’lláh began the treacherous winter journey from Constantinople to Adrianople (now Edirne, Turkey). He traveled with His family and a small group of friends. He told the rest of His companions to return to their homelands to share His faith with others. Though the authorities attempted to put out the flame of Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings, its light continued to spread throughout the world. Today, the Bahá’í Faith has over five million followers and has reached every country on the planet.



Bahá’u’lláh lived in this home for one year during His exile in Adrianople.

Find 18 words related to the story. Look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

ADMIRE	Z	N	R	W	Q	S	R	E	F	G	J	T	S	D	Y
COMMUNITY	B	G	J	L	F	J	D	R	R	D	P	J	F	I	T
COMPANIONS	D	E	Y	S	F	L	I	N	L	I	D	O	E	S	I
DISCORD	S	F	F	N	L	E	A	G	E	R	M	C	R	C	N
DIVINE	S	N	O	I	N	A	P	M	O	C	I	D	P	O	U
EXILE	R	U	O	D	K	K	N	T	E	T	S	E	A	R	M
FIRM	M	A	S	W	T	I	E	E	S	A	A	N	V	D	M
FLAME	E	X	I	L	E	L	N	U	L	C	Q	H	A	L	O
FRIENDS	E	I	T	T	B	R	J	D	E	M	L	A	E	R	C
INJUSTICE	N	Y	B	A	R	N	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	Y	T
INNOGENCE	I	M	T	W	I	N	N	O	C	E	N	C	E	L	S
JOURNEY	V	S	U	I	M	S	K	D	I	O	S	Y	G	I	M
KINDNESS	I	T	E	O	N	F	W	M	I	F	E	S	R	G	R
LIGHT	D	I	P	B	Z	U	W	B	W	H	Z	Y	T	H	I
PEACE	I	G	E	I	A	T	Z	E	B	K	G	W	O	T	F
REALM															
TABLET															
TRANSCENDS															

\*\*This quote was reported by a Bahá’í and may not be Bahá’u’lláh’s exact words.