

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

The Hidden Words

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.

Have you ever been so deeply saddened that the world felt dark and dreary? Then someone shared just the right words to bring you light and joy? Some say that's what happened to Fátimih, a beloved figure in Muslim and Bahá'í history.

Fátimih was born around 605 CE in Mecca, in what is now Saudi Arabia. She was a daughter of the Prophet Muhammad, Who founded Islam.

Fátimih was devoted to her father, and she was devastated when He passed away in 632. Nothing could ease her grief until one night, Fátimih was visited by the angel Gabriel. He shared verses with Fátimih that finally brought her great comfort. They were written down, but the book later disappeared. Some Muslims believed that when the next Messenger of God came, He would have the verses of Fátimih.

Over 1,200 years later, in 1858, Bahá'u'lláh was living in exile in Baghdád, Iraq. The leaders of Persia (now Iran) wanted to stop Bahá'u'lláh's growing influence, so they had banished Him from His home in Iran.

While meditating and pacing on the banks of the Tigris River, Bahá'u'lláh revealed a collection of holy writings known today as The Hidden Words. Some were written in the Persian language and some were in Arabic. Bahá'u'lláh identified them with the verses that had been given to Fátimih to ease her grief. In the early days of the Bahá'í Faith, The Hidden Words was known as The Hidden Book of Fátimih.

Bahá'u'lláh said that The Hidden



Bahá'u'lláh lived in Baghdád, Iraq, from 1853–1863. In 1858, He revealed The Hidden Words while pacing the banks of the Tigris River.

Words is the "inner essence" of teachings that were "revealed unto the Prophets of old." Its verses can guide our souls to grow stronger and closer to God.

Today, Bahá'ís all over the world study The Hidden Words and strive to put its teachings into action. In it, Bahá'u'lláh counsels us to be generous, saying, "Bestow My wealth upon My poor . . ."

He encourages us to show each other forgiveness and empathy with words such as, "How couldst thou forget thine own faults and busy thyself with the faults of others?"

When He says, "Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other," He reminds us of our unity and equality.

Meditating on The Hidden Words can inspire us to develop virtues and build friendships. These holy words can bring us comfort when we are struggling. They can remind us of our connection to God and each other.

Bahá'u'lláh's son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who led the Bahá'í Faith after His passing, called

“O SON OF LIGHT! Forget all save Me and commune with My spirit.
This is of the essence of My command, therefore turn unto it.” —Bahá’u’lláh

The Hidden Words “a treasury of divine mysteries.” He encouraged us to memorize these verses and said that when we ponder their meanings, “the doors of the mysteries will open.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá also emphasized that “these holy words have not been revealed to be heard but to be practiced.” He assured us that when we put the teachings of The Hidden Words into action, we will “become a torch of the fire of the love of God, an embodiment of humility, of lowliness . . . and of selflessness.”



Bahá’ís turn to the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh in prayer and consider it the holiest place on Earth.

Use the key to decode a verse from Bahá’u’lláh in The Hidden Words.

“ O SO_ O_ S_I_IT! M_ _i_st
 _ou_s_ _ is t_is: _oss_ss
 a _u_ , _i_d_
 a_d _adia_t _ _a_t... ”

