

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

The Most Holy Book

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.

Dive deep into the ocean, and you'll find thousands of fish gliding along the salty currents. The water carries oxygen for their gills to breathe and nutrients to help their food grow. Fish and all sea creatures rely on their habitat for everything they need to thrive.

Bahá'u'lláh said that the laws of God are like the ocean, and we are like fish. Every Messenger of God brings new laws to guide and encourage us in our spiritual and moral growth. The teachings of Jesus are in the Bible. The Qur'án, the holy book of Islam, reveals teachings by the Prophet Muhammad. Bahá'ís follow the teachings revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, including those in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Most Holy Book.

Bahá'u'lláh announced His station as a Messenger of God in 1863. Bahá'ís wrote to Him with questions about the laws of the Faith, but the time wasn't right for Him to share them.

In 1868, Bahá'u'lláh was banished to the prison-city of 'Akká, in what is now Israel. At first, He spent over two years confined to a prison cell. Then



In 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh was confined to this prison for over two years.



The sea wall of 'Akká, Israel, the site of Bahá'u'lláh's final exile in 1868

Bahá'u'lláh and His family were moved and placed under house arrest. They lived in several homes in 'Akká before finally crowding into a small house. There, in 1873, five years after His arrival in 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh revealed His laws in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas.

Bahá'u'lláh shares laws about prayer and the Bahá'í Fast, which starts at age 15. He gives us guidance about education, marriage, and family life. And He reveals laws that will keep the Bahá'í Faith united and establish a peaceful society. Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'u'lláh's great-grandson, called the Kitáb-i-Aqdas "unique and incomparable among the world's sacred Scriptures."

Bahá'u'lláh encouraged Bahá'ís to practice the Bahá'í laws with caution and wisdom. He said that the Kitáb-i-Aqdas is not "a mere code of laws." It is the Mother Book of the Faith. Its laws are "the breath of life unto all created things." They are "the highest means for the maintenance of order in the world and the security of its peoples."

