

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

## The Fire Tablet

### 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.

The prison-city of 'Akká (now in Israel) was a scary, dismal place when Bahá'u'lláh arrived in 1868. The air was foul, the streets were filthy, and the water was badly polluted. Bahá'u'lláh had been exiled there because officials wanted to silence His message of peace.

The Bahá'ís were treated with malice. They were also under attack by a small group known as the Azalís—supporters of Bahá'u'lláh's half-brother, Mírzá Yahyá, also called Azal. The Azalís claimed to be followers of the Báb—the Messenger of God Who came before Bahá'u'lláh. But they refused to accept Bahá'u'lláh as the Messenger that the Báb had foretold.

The Azalís lied to authorities and citizens about Bahá'u'lláh's peaceful teachings and actions. They even changed some of His writings and gave people false versions. They spread hatred and fear of the Bahá'ís.

In 1871, Bahá'u'lláh revealed the powerful Fire Tablet. It was written for Hájí Siyyid 'Alí-Akbar, a Bahá'í He loved dearly. It's presented as a conversation between an individual and God.

Many verses of the Fire Tablet follow a pattern, like poetry. First, Bahá'u'lláh expresses deep sorrow, with lines such as "Coldness hath gripped all mankind" and "Calamity hath reached its height . . ."

He then asks God a question, such as "Where is the warmth of Thy love . . .?" And He describes God's exalted qualities with phrases such as "O Fire of the worlds" or "O Power of the worlds."

The next part of the tablet is an answer, in God's voice. It includes lines such as "When the swords flash, go forward! When



Bahá'u'lláh lived in this prison cell in 'Akká for over two years. Then He and His family were crowded into a house in the city.

the shafts fly, press onward!"

Finally, at the end, comes the reply to God's guidance: "I have heard Thy Call, O All-Glorious Beloved; and now is the face of Bahá flaming . . . with the fire of Thy shining word . . . He hath risen up in faithfulness . . ."

The Fire Tablet offers a glimpse of the suffering Bahá'u'lláh endured due to injustice and treachery. The verses revealed in the voice of God provide loving comfort and inspire resilience. People recite it to gain hope and strength in times of hardship.

Shortly after Bahá'u'lláh revealed this tablet, some Bahá'ís were overwhelmed by the torment from the Azalís. Bahá'u'lláh had forbidden His followers to respond violently. But ignoring His clear guidance, seven Bahá'ís attacked the troublemakers. Three Azalís were killed.

When the news spread, a wave of anger was unleashed on the Bahá'ís. Innocent Bahá'ís were harassed and pelted with stones. Bahá'u'lláh's neighbor strengthened the wall separating their homes.

“Should all the servants read and ponder this, there shall be kindled in their veins a fire that shall set aflame the worlds.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Although Bahá’u’lláh had prohibited violence, He was confined for nearly three days and interrogated by officials. He responded with majesty and power, speaking so forcefully that the officials were silenced. The governor apologized and released Him. The men responsible for the deaths were imprisoned.

In time, the integrity of the Bahá’ís won the respect of people in ‘Akká. Bahá’u’lláh’s neighbor grew to admire Him. He removed the wall between the homes and offered his entire house to Bahá’u’lláh.

From His new room overlooking the sea, Bahá’u’lláh continued to reveal sacred writings. He called for justice and equality among all races, religions, and backgrounds, so world peace and unity can be established.



When their neighbor, Ilyás ‘Abbúd, removed the barrier between their homes, Bahá’u’lláh and His family used the combined house, known as the House of ‘Abbúd.

Find 19 words from the Fire Tablet that can inspire us to face hardship with courage and resilience. Search forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

CERTITUDE	H S E G F E B X E Z S Z I S U	LOVE
CHAMPION	E J S S E P C R S A A V E S F	MIGHT
COMPASSION	C H K E O N E N C G R A C E K	PATIENCE
DETACHMENT	N O O W N C E R E C Y T E N C	POWER
FAITHFULNESS	A C E N N L I R Y I N T V E E	RADIANCE
FORGIVENESS	I R D I O F U O O O T T O V R	SACRIFICE
GENEROSITY	D Q S W I R J F I S Z A L I T	SINCERE
GRACE	A A M C N W H S H C I N P G I	TRUST
HONOR	R Z E U J S S T N T Z T T R T	TRUTH
JOY	M T G R H A U Y U D I N Y O U	
	I N O I P M A H C R P A D F D	
	G T B M T S U R T X T L F J E	
	H B O D E T A C H M E N T U L	
	T C Q T M H Q F X Z C P O S V	
	W R W I S I V Y N E L V B I H	