

HONORING THE BÁB

"There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation in His Day, to hear His verses and believe in them . . ." — The Báb

A world-changing day dawned on October 20, 1819, when Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad was born in Shíráz, Persia (now Iran). 'Alí-Muhammad was unlike other children. He spent His free time in prayer and was wise beyond His years. His teacher said that he felt "unworthy . . . to teach so remarkable a child."

The reason for this innate knowledge became clear when, in 1844, 'Alí-Muhammad declared that He was a Messenger of God. He called Himself "the Báb," meaning "Gate" or "Door" in Arabic. As a gate allows entry into a

space, the Báb signaled humanity's entry to a new spiritual age.

Among the Báb's teachings were the importance of love and compassion, the equality of women and men, and care for the poor. He also prepared people to recognize "Him whom God shall make manifest"—a Messenger of God who would come soon after Him.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Messenger promised by the Báb. Today, Bahá'ís celebrate the Báb's birth with prayers, fellowship, and festivities.

CREATE A WELCOMING GATE

To celebrate the Báb's birth, create a gate that leads to a garden of paradise.

You'll need: Card stock, 8½" x 11" • pencil • scissors • markers • optional: garden-themed stickers or stamps

- 1 Fold card stock so short ends meet, then unfold. Fold short ends to meet at center line. Then fold backward at center (to create accordion).



- 2 Place paper so top layer opens to the right. Near top, draw a curved line (like an "S") to the edge. Cut through all layers.



- 3 Unfold. Inside, write "Bahá'u'lláh" and decorate with a garden scene using markers, stickers, or stamps.



- 4 Close doors. Write "The Báb" and draw a decorative gate on the front with markers.



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