

REMEMBERING RIDVÁN

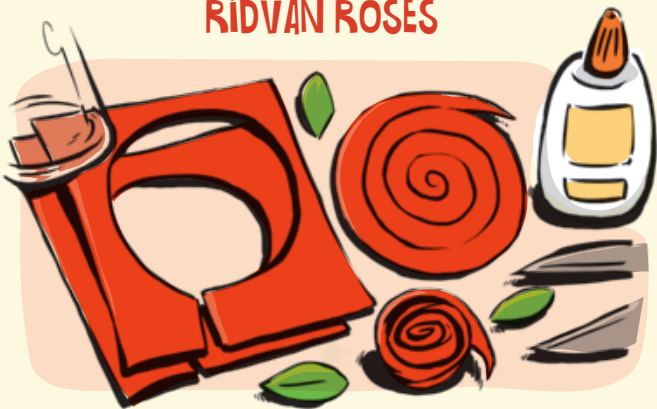
“Consort with all religions with amity and concord, that they may inhale from you the sweet fragrance of God.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Each spring, Bahá’ís joyously celebrate the 12-day Festival of Ridván (Paradise). This year, it’s April 21–May 2. We honor the time Bahá’u’lláh spent in the Ridván Garden in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1863. There He announced that He was God’s Messenger for a new day. During that first festival, gardeners picked roses and piled them high in Bahá’u’lláh’s tent. He sent them as gifts to His friends.

Similar to growing fragrant flowers, Bahá’u’lláh urges us to develop spiritual qualities such as love, generosity, and truthfulness. These are attributes of God that we can find in each other and ourselves. When our souls bloom with spiritual virtues, our communities can be unified gardens of humanity.

Try these activities to enrich your Ridván gatherings.

RIDVÁN ROSES



Trace around a cup to make a circle on red paper. Cut circle out. From center, draw a spiral about ½" wide. Cut along spiral line. Start at outer end and gently roll spiral until you reach the center.

Let paper unwind slightly. Glue bottom edges of flower to spiral’s end. Add green paper leaves. Make 12 roses, and on the leaves, write Bahá’í quotes about love and unity. Read one aloud with your family for each day of Ridván.

NAME MY SPIRITUAL QUALITY

For each person, write a spiritual quality (such as joyfulness or courage) on a 3" x 5" index card. Everyone puts on a stretchy headband, and the leader tucks a card into each headband without the person seeing it.

The group mingles, and people ask each other “yes or no” questions about their quality. (For example: Does it often involve laughter? Would I need it if I were climbing a mountain?) People can also give clues, such as acting out ways to express the quality. Continue until everyone has guessed their own spiritual quality.



Bahá’u’lláh’s Life

Explore more stories about Bahá’u’lláh with your family and community.



Take a Service Challenge

Invite friends and neighbors to engage in service and learning activities.



Community Coloring

Have fun drawing and coloring to strengthen community friendships.

