

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 Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as
a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the
"Black Pit" of Tíhrán

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.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace A Friend in the Mountains

Throughout His life, Bahá'u'lláh was known for being a kind friend to all, even when facing challenges. When He was young, He spent His time exploring nature and helping people. By His early 20s, He was known as the "Father of the Poor."

Even when His life was in danger, He continued to support others. In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested by government leaders for following the peaceful teachings of the Báb. His family's home was ransacked and their belongings stolen. He was thrown into an awful dungeon in Tíhrán known as the Black Pit. Still, Bahá'u'lláh praised God and uplifted the spirits of other prisoners. He taught them to chant, "God is sufficient unto me; He verily is the All-sufficing! In Him let the trusting trust."

When Bahá'u'lláh was released four months later, He was exiled to Baghdád, Iraq. His family had lost everything, and they lived very simply. But Bahá'u'lláh persisted in caring for others. People were attracted to His generous spirit.

His half-brother, Mírzá Yahyá, grew jealous of the love and admiration shown to Bahá'u'lláh. Mírzá Yahyá spread lies about Him, causing confusion and disunity in the community. Still, Bahá'u'lláh treated him kindly and let Mírzá Yahyá live in His home.

But Mírzá Yahyá's jealousy grew. Hoping to bring peace and relieve His half-brother's anger, Bahá'u'lláh left Baghdád. He lived alone in a cave on the mountain of Sar-Galú in Kurdistán. He had only one change of clothes and ate meals of bread and cheese.



Bahá'u'lláh stayed alone in the mountains of Kurdistán for about two years, praying and meditating.

One day, Bahá'u'lláh met a young boy crying by the side of the road. Bahá'u'lláh asked why he was so sad. The boy explained that he couldn't practice his handwriting for school because he didn't have any calligraphy to copy. He was afraid to return to school without his work.

"Weep no longer," Bahá'u'lláh gently replied. "I will set a copy for thee, and show thee how to imitate it."*

At school, the boy proudly showed his teacher the calligraphy that Bahá'u'lláh had created for him. The teacher was astonished by its elegance and knew that the quiet man living alone in the mountains was more than He seemed. A group of scholars visited Him and were amazed at His wisdom. Soon, people from all over the region—rich and poor, academic and uneducated—were drawn to Bahá'u'lláh's magnetic warmth and insight.

After about two years away, Bahá'u'lláh returned to Baghdád. The community had become discouraged and conflicted under Mírzá Yahyá's poor

“Incline your hearts, O people of God, unto the counsels of your true, your incomparable Friend.” — Bahá’u’lláh

leadership. Bahá’u’lláh encouraged and guided them so their faith and unity grew. The community once again began to flourish.

In time, Bahá’u’lláh would reveal many teachings to help unite humanity. His Faith continues to inspire millions of people around the world to be a friend to all and build lasting peace.



The Bahá’í Faith now has over five million followers. Its World Center has about a million visitors yearly.

Use the key to decode this quote that Bahá’u’lláh revealed in Baghdád.

“ O _RIE_D! I_ t_e _arde_ o_ t_y

_eart _ _a_t _a_ _t b_t t_e

rose o_ _o_e, a_d _ro_ t_e

i _ti_ _a_e o_ a_ _e_tio_ a_d

desire _oose_ _ot t_y _o_d.”

—Bahá’u’lláh

