

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Journey to Constantinople

## 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.

How does your family prepare for a journey? You could load the car with books, games, and snacks to keep everyone happy. Or you might skip the driving and get there faster on a plane. When you travel today, you have a lot of options for how to get there and what to do along the way. But that wasn't always the case.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh was unfairly exiled from Baghdád (now in Iraq) to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). At that time and place, there weren't planes, cars, or even trains. People traveled on foot or on a horse or mule. Or they could ride in a **howdah**, which had two large seats on either side of a mule. One person rode in each seat to balance the weight across the animal's back, and they jostled along with each slow step.

For 110 days, Bahá'u'lláh and His friends and family crossed mountains, valleys, and woodlands. It got so hot that they often had to rest during the day and travel at night through intense darkness. But the companions cooperated and used their skills to take care of each other. Some tended to the animals. Others cooked meals. A few rode ahead each day to find food and supplies.

One man named Jináb-i-Muníb was happy to help. Though he had once lived in comfort, he gladly walked the entire way for up to 30 miles (48 km) each day. His charm and grace cheered his friends. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,



Before leaving Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh stayed in a garden on the banks of the Tigris River. He received visitors and announced that He was a Messenger of God.

who was 19 years old at the time, said, "He was a close companion of mine on that journey. There were nights when we would walk, one to either side of the howdah of Bahá'u'lláh, and the joy we had defies description."

Jináb-i-Muníb also had a beautiful singing voice. On long stretches of empty road, he sang for hours to ease everyone's boredom and lift their spirits.

After arriving in Constantinople, Bahá'u'lláh asked Jináb-i-Muníb to use his voice in another way. Bahá'ís were often attacked for their beliefs, so talking about the Faith was dangerous. Recognizing Jináb-i-Muníb's wisdom and devotion, Bahá'u'lláh asked him to go to Persia (now Iran) to share His teachings.

After a time in Persia, Jináb-i-Muníb was happy to return and live near Bahá'u'lláh again. When Bahá'u'lláh was exiled to 'Akká (now in Israel) in 1868, Jináb-i-Muníb was severely ill, but he

“O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy great purpose...  
 Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee.” — Bahá’u’lláh

begged to go along. He passed away before reaching ‘Akká. Bahá’u’lláh said the souls in the next world rushed to meet his spirit with love.

The memory of Jináb-i-Muníb’s uplifting joy and insight stayed with the Bahá’ís on their journey. In ‘Akká, Bahá’u’lláh and His followers faced harsh difficulties. But after nine years, He was able to move to the peaceful countryside at last. For the rest of His life, He enjoyed the beauty of nature as His teachings began to spread around the globe.



Compared to the crowded streets of ‘Akká, the quiet calm of the gardens at Mazra’ih was a great source of joy for Bahá’u’lláh.

Unscramble the letters to find 10 words related to service. Then use the numbered letters to fill in the boxes below and discover a quote from Bahá’u’lláh.

RNHIEFPDSI    30   9   —   32   31   —   1   23   —   —

ATNPTIE    —   —   2   —   24   —   14

GEROUNES    —   27   34   35   17   8   —   28

TMEWARKO    15   16   33   18   —   21   3   —

PHLEUFL    11   12   —   —   7   —   25

SLSESEF    —   19   —   22   —   6   —

DKNI    —   4   20   —

IYTNU    —   —   26   10   —

OVEL    —   29   5   —

FXLBIEEL    —   —   13   —   —   36   —

28   2   17   26   5   19   30   8   3   10   23   27   36   13   2   15   35   9   18   6   31   10

21   7   14   11   24   25   4   5   12   1   29   22   21   34   32   33   20   29   2   23   16   3