

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

A True Brother

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 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.

Who do you count on to stick with you through hard times? For Bahá'u'lláh, one of those people was His younger brother, Mírzá Músá.

Even as a little kid, Mírzá Músá was devoted to Bahá'u'lláh, Who showed him great love and kindness. When their father, Mírzá Buzurg, passed away, Bahá'u'lláh cared for His siblings and mother. He provided a home for them and helped His younger brothers learn writing, spelling, and calligraphy. Mírzá Músá adored Bahá'u'lláh, and for his entire life, his attachment never wavered.

From the earliest days of Bahá'í history, Mírzá Músá was at Bahá'u'lláh's side. When a new Messenger of God named the Báb shared teachings to guide humanity, He sent some of His writings to Bahá'u'lláh. Mírzá Músá greeted the messenger at the gate of their family home and took the tablet to Bahá'u'lláh.

After reading, Bahá'u'lláh said, "Músá, what have you to say?" Both brothers accepted the new Faith and became Bábís. Years later, when the Báb was martyred, Mírzá Músá helped keep His sacred remains hidden until they could be safely laid to rest in Haifa (now in Israel).

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested because He was a Bábí. Mírzá Músá helped care for Bahá'u'lláh's family while He was in prison. After Bahá'u'lláh's release, Mírzá Músá joined Him in exile from their home in Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád (now in Iraq).

In Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh declared that He was the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb. He shared teachings to help bring world peace. Building unity in the family



In this prison in 'Akká, Israel, Mírzá Músá helped 'Abdu'l-Bahá tend to the sick Bahá'ís.

is an important part of that. Bahá'u'lláh urged us to be as unified as "the fingers of one hand, the members of one body."

Mírzá Músá devoted himself to serving the Bahá'í Faith. The family was exiled three more times as authorities tried to stop Bahá'u'lláh's message of peace. If disunity arose in their family or community, Mírzá Músá was trusted to resolve it with justice.

Mírzá Músá deeply loved his nephew, Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Together they tended to the sick and met with government and religious leaders to share Bahá'í teachings. 'Abdu'l-Bahá called his uncle a "true brother" to Bahá'u'lláh.

Mírzá Músá passed away in 'Akká (now in Israel) in 1887. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "He remained steadfast, under all conditions, to the very end. Unto him be praise and salutations . . . upon him be mercy and grace."

“One should wish for one’s brother that which one wisheth for oneself.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Play these games to strengthen bonds of unity with friends and family.

Ping-Pong Party

Give each person a ping-pong ball with a different get-to-know-you question written on it in permanent marker. Everyone stands in a circle and bounces the balls back and forth. After two minutes, players read aloud and answer the question on the ball they’re holding.



Name That Story

Give everyone a blank sheet of paper and a pencil or pen. Invite friends to write a short, one-paragraph story about an act of kindness someone did that had a big impact on them. Do not write names on the paper.

Fold the stories and put them in a bowl. Mix the stories up, then ask each player to take a story from the bowl. Each person reads aloud the story they selected. After all stories are read, group members guess the author of each one.



Interconnections

Give a prompt that includes at least some folks in the group. Then ask everyone to mingle and talk until they can split into smaller groups based on the prompt. Examples:

- People who play the same sport or have the same hobby
- People who have the same favorite season
- People who have the same number of siblings



Top Two

Give everyone a blank piece of paper and a pencil. Each person writes two facts that they want to share about themselves. Place all papers in a bowl. Take turns pulling a paper from the bowl and reading it out loud. After each one is read, the group guesses who wrote it.

