

More Information on Baha'u'llah & The Baha'i Faith

Baha'u'llah's Life

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Compiled from:

<http://info.bahai.org/bahauallah.html>; <http://info.bahai.org/article-1-3-2-2.html>

In 1817, Baha'u'llah was born into a powerful and wealthy family in Persia, that could trace its roots back to the ruling dynasties of Persia. Though he had the opportunity to reap the benefits of His wealth, He chose to focus His life on generosity and kindness. However, over time, Baha'u'llah lost all His wealth, and was imprisoned, tortured, and banished. He was first banished to Baghdad where, in 1863, He announced Himself as the One promised by the Bab. He was then sent to Constantinople (today's Istanbul), to Adrianapole (today's Edirneh) and finally to Acre, in the Holy Land, where He arrived as a prisoner in 1868.

In 1852, while still imprisoned in the Black Pit of Persia, Baha'u'llah received a vision of God's will for Humanity. He writes **"The Call of God hath been raised and the light of His countenance hath been lifted up upon men. It behoveth every man to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of His heart and to gaze with an open and unbiased mind, on the sign of His Revelation, the proof of His Mission, and the tokens of His Glory"**. Baha'u'llah's experience in the Black Pit set in motion a process of religious revelation which, over the next 40 years, led to production of thousands of books, tablets and letters-which to day form the core of sacred scripture of Baha'i Faith. In those writings, He outlined a framework for the reconstruction of human society at all spiritual, moral, economic, political, and philosophical. Later He wrote about His vision and mission **"I was but a man like others, asleep upon my couch, when lo, the breezes of the All-Glorious were wafted over Me, and taught me the knowledge of all that hath been, this thing is not from Me, but the One Who is Almighty. He bade Me lift up My voice between earth and heaven....."**.

In April 1863, before leaving Baghdad, Baha'u'llah and His companions and family camped in a garden on the banks of the Tigris River. From 21 April to 2 May, Baha'u'llah shared with those Babi's in His company and rest of humanity that He was the Promised One foretold by the Bab, fortold, indeed , in all world's scripture. The Garden became known as the Garden of Ridvan, which indicates "paradise". The anniversary of the twelve days spent there is celebrated in the Baha'i world as the most joyous of holidays, known as the Ridvan Festival. Beginning in September 1867, Baha'u'llah wrote a series of letters to the world leaders of His time and openly proclaimed His station. He spoke of the dawn of a new age **"The well being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established"**.

In the late 1870s, Baha'u'llah was given the freedom to move outside the city walls, and His followers were able to meet with Him in relative peace and freedom. He took up a residence in an abandoned mansion and was able to further devote Himself to writing. On 29 May 1892, Baha'u'llah passed away. His remains were laid to rest in a garden adjoining the restored mansion, which is known as Bahji. For Baha'is this spot is the most holy place on earth.

Basic Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh

As explained by: <http://info.bahai.org/bahauallah-basic-teachings.html>

Bahá'u'lláh taught that there is one God whose successive revelations of His will to humanity have been the chief civilizing force in history. The agents of this process have been the Divine Messengers whom people have seen chiefly as the founders of separate religious systems but whose common purpose has been to bring the human race to spiritual and moral maturity. Humanity is now coming of age. It is this that makes possible the unification of the human family and the building of a peaceful, global society. Among the principles which the Bahá'í Faith promotes as vital to the achievement of this goal are

- the abandonment of all forms of prejudice
- assurance to women of full equality of opportunity with men
- recognition of the unity and relativity of religious truth
- the elimination of extremes of poverty and wealth
- the realization of universal education
- the responsibility of each person to independently search for truth
- the establishment of a global commonwealth of nations
- recognition that true religion is in harmony with reason and the pursuit of scientific knowledge
- necessity for a universal auxiliary language

The collected writings of Baha'u'llah are considered by Baha'is to be the word of God and they form the foundation of the Baha'i Faith. The quantity of writings produced by Baha'u'llah far exceeds the revelations of previous Messengers of God and would amount to more than 100 volumes if they were bound in a series of books. The writings are characterized by a wide range of styles and He wrote in both Arabic and Persian. Some work speaks with the voice of God in lofty and beautiful prose; some are mystical and poetic works, while others are direct statements on morality and ethics. Many are letters to individuals, known as tablets.

For more information on the Baha'I Faith, you can go to www.bahai.org or locally call 610-527-3114