



Bahá'u'lláh
1817-1892

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▲ Entrance to the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh



*The Bahá'í world community
celebrates in 2017 the
bicentenary of the Birth of
Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the
Bahá'í Faith.*

The All-Knowing Physician hath His finger on the pulse of mankind. He perceiveth the disease, and prescribeth, in His unerring wisdom, the remedy. Every age hath its own problem, and every soul its particular aspiration. The remedy the world needeth in its present-day afflictions can never be the same as that which a subsequent age may require. Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and centre your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.

Bahá'u'lláh



Born in Persia (Iran) in 1817, Bahá'u'lláh is the most recent divine Messenger entrusted with a revelation that is the source of a new spiritual and social dynamic throughout the world. He explained that religion is progressive, and that each of the great religions revealed over the centuries and millennia have added to our understanding of God, enabling humanity to deepen its relation with the Creator and to advance human civilization. In more than a hundred written works, Bahá'u'lláh addressed the spiritual and material needs of our age, providing guidance and direction to establish the future peace and prosperity of humankind.

In a world struggling to establish peaceful co-existence among diverse peoples, Bahá'u'lláh challenges humanity to reject a sectarian spirit that divides the human community, and invites all to break free of those traditions and cultural limitations that set people against each other. He describes humanity as undergoing a transition to its long-anticipated age of collective maturity, and enjoins each of us to examine how to open this new chapter in the life of humankind. He calls on humanity to recognize “that all the great religions of the world are divine in origin, that their basic principles are in complete harmony, that their aims and purposes are one and the same, that their teachings are but facets of one truth”, and that all religions over the course of history contribute to the spiritual evolution of human society.

Throughout history, God has addressed human beings through the voice and person of chosen Manifestations or Messengers. The social content of these messages have evolved over time to respond to the particular needs of each period of history, but the fundamentals of the spiritual teachings have remained largely the same. Today, again, at this time of considerable global insecurity and instability, God's most recent message can bring comfort and renewal:

“The vitality of men's belief in God is dying out in every land,” Bahá'u'lláh affirms. The peoples of the world are witnessing, with increasing anxiety, the declining force of religious

teachings. Fundamental values of justice, wisdom and love are put in question. Humanity is suffering from the consequences of immoderate individualism, an absence of trust and loyalty, and pervasive materialism. In this turbulent and troubled period, Bahá'u'lláh gives expression to a renewed religious message that has the power to restructure and reorganize every aspect of life, a message that restores our relationship with God, and establishes anew those relations between people that are anchored in service to humanity as a whole.

Bahá'u'lláh reaffirms the divine pattern in creation and reminds us of the spiritual reality of human nature. For more than 150 years, those who have recognized the truth of this message have joined the efforts of all those who seek to relieve the suffering and anguish of humanity in contributing to the advancement of world civilization resting on the spiritual principles found in His teachings. Followers of Bahá'u'lláh understand divine revelation to be the driving force animating progressive developments in human civilization. As Bahá'u'lláh wrote, “All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization.”

Around the world, people are working to apply Bahá'u'lláh's teachings to the needs of their communities. They are working to combat prejudice of all kinds, promoting education for all, the equality of women and men, and a more equitable distribution of wealth so that poverty is eliminated. They are making every effort to advance towards spiritual maturity, with the goal of creating a worldwide community that is at once diverse, united and just.

Bahá'u'lláh's teachings are a source of education and inspiration for children, youth and adults from any and all religious, cultural and social backgrounds. In varied settings, they study sacred Writings, pray and reflect together on any measure to be taken that can transform their communities. Open to all, these activities are devoted to the development of qualities, habits and actions that form the essential spiritual qualities of the human being. Particular attention is given



*This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal
in the past, eternal in the future. Let him that
seeketh, attain it; and as to him that hath refused
to seek it verily, God is Self-Sufficient, above any
need of His creatures.*

Bahá'u'lláh

to adolescents and the young in order to help them become spiritually empowered and morally equipped to guide their decisions and actions as active members of society.

Those who are responding to Bahá'u'lláh's calling to "rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men" are engaged in community-based processes of study, reflection and action. They are making efforts to demonstrate a nobility of character and conduct, seeking to cultivate in their family life, at work, in their studies and in society, a way of life that upholds that measure of unity and peace for which the peoples of the earth have such profound longing.

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established," affirms Bahá'u'lláh. It is to attain this ultimate goal that many people participate actively in the life of their society, placing service to humanity at the heart of their day-to-day efforts.



▲ Window in prison from which Bahá'u'lláh waved to pilgrims





▲ Bahá'u'lláh's Prison Cell (after restoration)

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh 1817-1892

Mirza Husayn 'Ali was born in Tehran, Persia (now known as Iran) in 1817. He would later take the title “Bahá'u'lláh”, meaning “the Glory of God”, becoming a follower of the Báb, the Herald and precursor of Bahá'u'lláh, and Himself a Manifestation of God. In 1853, after imprisonment under the Shah, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled to Baghdad where He became a preeminent Figure in the faith of the Báb, winning the respect of the local population. The government of the Ottoman Empire, in collaboration with the Persian government, then exiled Bahá'u'lláh further away from Persia, first in Constantinople (today Istanbul) and then Adrianople (today Edirne), and finally He was sent to the prison city of 'Akká, a remote centre in the Ottoman Empire, now a part of northern Israel. There, He spent the rest of His life, passing away on the 29th of May, 1892 a few miles to the north of 'Akká. He is buried at Bahjí, and today His Shrine is a place of pilgrimage for people the world over.

Some Prayers and Writings Revealed by Bahá'u'lláh

O Children of Men!

Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. Such is My counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory.

Bahá'u'lláh

O Befriended Stranger!

The candle of thine heart is lighted by the hand of My power, quench it not with the contrary winds of self and passion. The healer of all thine ills is remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My love thy treasure and cherish it even as thy very sight and life.

Bahá'u'lláh

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Daystar of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words.

Bahá'u'lláh



Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path, O Thou the Goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquillity on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden!

Bahá'u'lláh

Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified.

Bahá'u'lláh

O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy great purpose. May they follow Thy commandments and abide in Thy law. Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee. O God! Leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of Thy knowledge, and cheer their hearts by Thy love. Verily, Thou art their Helper and their Lord.

Bahá'u'lláh

More information on Bahá'u'lláh is available on the following websites,
and the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and books on the Bahá'í Faith can be
obtained from BDS-Admin@cdnbnc.org.

www.bahai.org
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