



***The essence of all the prophets of God is one  
and the same. - Baha'u'llah***

## **About Baha'u'llah**

Baha'u'llah, whose name means in Arabic "the Glory of God," is the founder of the Baha'i Faith. His followers, known as Baha'is, believe him to be the latest in a line of great Prophets, or Manifestations of God, that includes Abraham, Krishna, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, and Bab.

Born Mirza Husayn-Ali on November 12, 1817 in Tehran, the capital of Persia (now Iran), Baha'u'llah was a member of a wealthy noble family that could trace its ancestry to the ruling dynasties of Persia's imperial past. Though He was invited to follow His father in government service in a ministerial position that would have ensured a life of wealth and luxury, He had no interest in politics. He chose instead to devote Himself to philanthropic endeavors and to an undertaking that has gradually captured the imagination and loyalty of some six million people from virtually every race, culture, class, and nation on earth. The undertaking is today embodied in the Baha'i Faith, the youngest of the independent world religions.

In 1844, Baha'u'llah embraced the cause of a young merchant from Shiraz known as the Bab (Gate), Who was advancing a claim that the advent of a universal Prophet, the Promised One of all religions - "Him Whom God shall make manifest" - was imminent and that His advent would usher in an era of universal peace and initiate a new cycle in the religious history of humankind. This occurred during a period marked by social upheaval and messianic expectation around the globe. Believers from many faith traditions were seeking guidance from their scriptures about the fulfillment of prophecies signaling the end of human history. Many Christians felt the return of Christ was near at hand. Shiah Muslims speculated about the return of the Twelfth Imam (also known as the Qa'im, or "the one who shall arise from family of Muhammad").

The Bab's announcement provoked swift and severe response from both church and state in His native land. They believed that Muhammad was the last and final Prophet of God; thus the Bab and His followers, known as Babis, were seen as dangerous heretical movement that must be stopped. The Bab was arrested, beaten, and imprisoned, and eventually He was publicly executed in 1850. Some twenty thousand of His followers were killed, many after enduring heinous torture.

Baha'u'llah quickly became a leading supporter and defender of the Bab's cause. As a result, He, too, was assailed by the same forces of ignorance and fanaticism that had imprisoned and executed the Bab. He was cast into the infamous Black Pit of Tehran, an underground dungeon

from which few escaped with their lives. There, surrounded by thieves and murderers, He was fettered with heavy shackles and chains that cut into His flesh. He and the cause He vigorously espoused were expected to perish. Yet it was there in the Black Pit that Baha'u'llah received the first intimations of His own mission. Many years later, near the end of His life, Baha'u'llah described the experience as follows:

One night, in a dream, these exalted words were heard on every side: "Verily, We shall render Thee victorious by Thyself and by Thy Pen. Grieve Thou not for that which hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid, for Thou art in safety. Erelong will God raise up the treasures of the earth - men who will aid Thee through Thyself and through Thy Name, wherewith God hath revived the hearts of such as have recognized Him."

Baha'u'llah further described the experience, saying,

During the days I lay in the prison of Tehran, though the galling weight of the chains and the stench-filled air allowed Me but little sleep, still in those infrequent moments of slumber I felt as if something flowed from the crown of My head over My breast, even as a mighty torrent that precipitateth itself upon the earth from the summit of a lofty mountain. Every limb of My body would, as a result, be set afire. At such moments My tongue recited what no man could bear to hear.

Through the experience of divine revelation amidst the horror, agony, and gloom of the Black Pit, Baha'u'llah began to understand His mission and its relationship to the Bab's prophetic words regarding "Him Whom God shall make manifest."

Baha'u'llah survived His imprisonment and was released after four months; however, the remaining forty years of His life were marked by severe hardships in the form of exile, further imprisonment, and unrelenting persecution.

Upon His release from prison, Baha'u'llah and His family were banished from Persia. He was first exiled to Baghdad, Iraq, and from there He was later banished to Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne, Turkey), and finally to the prison-city of Acre, Israel, where He remained for over twenty-four years until His passing on May 29, 1892.

During the course of His exiles, Baha'u'llah wrote voluminously, expounding the principles of His faith, formulating its laws and ordinances, proclaiming His message to the kings and rulers of the world, and calling upon them to turn to God and reign with justice.

The aim of Baha'u'llah is not to abolish but to fulfill the revelations of the past; to reconcile, rather than accentuate, the divergencies of conflicting creeds; to restate the basic truths of the world's major religions in a manner that conforms to the needs and maturity of the age in which we live; and to herald the approach of an age in which the peace of the planet will be permanently ensured.

The main thrust of His message is unity. He taught that there is only one God, that all of the world's religions represent one changeless and eternal Faith of God, and that all humanity is one race, destined in the fullness of time to live in peace and harmony. He proclaims that the ages of the infancy and childhood of the human race are past, that the convulsions associated with its present stage of adolescence are gradually and painfully preparing it to reach the stage of adulthood, and are heralding the approach of the Age of Ages when swords will be beaten unto plowshares, when the Kingdom of God promised by Jesus will have been established, and the peace and prosperity of the entire planet will be definitely and permanently ensured. He proclaims the necessity and inevitability of the unification of humankind, asserting that it is gradually approaching and that nothing short of the spirit of God, working through His chosen Mouthpiece in this day, can ultimately succeed in bringing it about.

Baha'u'llah enjoins on His followers the primary duty of an unfettered search for truth, condemns all forms of prejudice and superstition, declares the purpose of religion to be the promotion of friendship and harmony, proclaims the essential harmony of science and religion, and recognizes religion as the foremost agency for the orderly progress of society. He asserts the principle of equal rights, opportunities, and privileges for women and men; insists on compulsory education; declares the necessity of eliminating extremes of poverty and wealth; abolishes the institution of priesthood; prohibits slavery, asceticism, begging, and monasticism; prescribes monogamy; discourages divorce; emphasizes the necessity of strict obedience to one's government; exalts any work performed in the spirit of service to the level of worship; urges the creation or selection of an auxiliary international language; and delineates the outlines of those institutions that must establish and perpetuate the general peace of mankind.

Baha'u'llah does not claim that His own revelation is to be the last revelation from God. He promises that a larger measure of the truth that He has been commissioned by God to bestow on humanity will be disclosed at future stages of its constant and ever advancing evolution.

Source: The Hidden Words by Baha'u'llah, 2012 Extracted by Ricardo B Serrano as a supplementary reading for his book "Oneness with Shiva" and for his Baha'i friends worldwide



<http://innerway.ca/?p=13622> Baha'u'llah



<https://www.createspace.com/4116335> Oneness with Shiva

and <https://youtu.be/urDie9Q1xUQ> Baha'u'llah Shen Gong