

The Bahá'í Faith: a single page presentation.

The Bahá'í Faith is the youngest of the world's independent religions. Its founder, Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), is regarded by Bahá'ís as the most recent in the line of Messengers of God that stretches back beyond recorded time and that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Zoroaster, Christ and Muhammad.

The central theme of Bahá'u'lláh's message is that humanity is one single race and that the day has come for its unification in one global society. God, Bahá'u'lláh said, has set in motion historical forces that are breaking down traditional barriers of race, class, creed, and nation and that will, in time, give birth to a universal civilisation. The principal challenge facing the peoples of the earth is to accept the fact of their oneness and to assist the processes of unification.

Bahá'u'lláh taught that there is one God whose successive revelations of His will to humanity have been the chief civilising 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 realisation 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

Bahá'u'lláh's Mission was announced in 1844 in Persia by The Báb Who's Own six year Mission to proclaim the advent of Bahá'u'lláh ended in His glorious Martyrdom on July the 9th 1850. For forty years Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned and banished from country to country. During that time He wrote

hundreds of volumes containing words of such consummate power as to become the source and scripture of what is now the second most widespread Faith on our earth. On His passing Bahá'u'lláh conferred the leadership of the Faith upon His eldest son Abdu'l-Bahá. For the remainder of His life Abdu'l-Bahá travelled and interpreted His Fathers Writings. The Writings of The Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and Abdu'l-Bahá form the Holy Text of the Bahá'í Revelation.

"That which God hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith."

Bahá'u'lláh