

21st APRIL 1863

In the early morning the sun rises into the sky and the dark earth becomes light once more. Flowers open their petals, birds sing and the world begins to wake up.

It was like that when the Báb came. He was like the light of the sun after a long dark night. People's hearts and minds had been asleep and the teachings of the Báb woke them up. Their hearts became filled with love and their minds with great discoveries as they began to understand some of the mysteries of God.

During the morning the sun rises higher and higher in the sky, until by noon the day is full of light. This was like the Coming of Bahá'u'lláh. The Báb said that Bahá'u'lláh was the Glory of God and His Teachings would be even more wonderful than the ones He had given.

But if a room is dusty we do not like the sun to shine too brightly to show it up, and those men whose minds and hearts were full of wrong thoughts and feelings did not like the Light of God shining so brightly and showing how bad they were, so they killed the Báb and shut Bahá'u'lláh in a dark prison.

It was while Bahá'u'lláh was in that prison that God told Him that He was the One the Báb had promised would come. From that moment Bahá'u'lláh became filled with the knowledge of God.

Bahá'u'lláh was kept in that prison for four months and He became so ill that everyone thought He would soon die, so they took the chains from His neck and feet and sent Him away to another land. With His wife and two small children Bahá'u'lláh began the difficult journey, on horseback and in the middle of winter, to the town of Baghdad in the land of Iraq.

Ten years passed by, but Bahá'u'lláh had not yet told anyone that He was the Manifestation of God the Báb had promised would come. However, although they had not been told how great Bahá'u'lláh was, everyone loved Him and wanted to be near Him.

The richest princes and the poorest beggars would go to His House and people travelled for hundreds of miles to see Him. One important man went to Bahá'u'lláh 's House early every morning to sweep the dust from the pavement and steps outside the door. Even people who had been enemies came to Him for advice, and the poor were so happy when they were with Bahá'u'lláh that they forgot they were hungry and sad. Many a night no one slept, but spent the time chanting the beautiful prayers Bahá'u'lláh had written.

The years passed happily by, but one day Bahá'u'lláh received a letter from the governor saying that He must leave Baghdad and go to another town called Constantinople. The king of Persia did not like so many people loving Bahá'u'lláh and wanted Him to be sent even farther away.

No one could sleep that night. But this time it was not because they were happy, but because they were very sad.

As Bahá'u'lláh was about to leave His House a little boy fell at His feet, held on to His robe and cried, and would not let Him go. Everyone began to cry when they saw this and Bahá'u'lláh 's heart was full of love and sadness.

Bahá'u'lláh and His loved ones walked towards a river and there Bahá'u'lláh left them. He went across the river to spend twelve days in a beautiful garden before He finally left Baghdad. It was in this Garden that Bahá'u'lláh openly said that He was the Promised One.

The name of this Garden was "Ridván" which means paradise. And the first day Bahá'u'lláh went there is called the First Day of Ridván the First Day of Paradise.

“The Best-Beloved is come . . Happy is the man that turneth unto Him.”

*Bahá'u'lláh*