

WORLD RELIGION DAY/JANUARY 17

FIGURES IN BAHA'I

The Báb (1819-1850) is the Herald of the Bahá'í Faith. In the middle of the 19th century, He announced that He was the bearer of a message destined to transform humanity's spiritual life. His mission was to prepare the way for the coming of a second Messenger from God, greater than Himself, who would usher in an age of peace and justice.

Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892)—the “Glory of God”—is the **Promised One foretold by the Báb** and all of the Divine Messengers of the past. Bahá'u'lláh delivered a new Revelation from God to humanity. Thousands of verses, letters and books flowed from His pen. In His Writings, He outlined a framework for the development of a global civilization which takes into account both the spiritual and material dimensions of human life. For this, He endured 40 years of imprisonment, torture and exile.

HISTORY AND MEANING

World Religion Day was initiated in 1950 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States and it is often celebrated on the third Sunday of January. The day has been marked by hosting discussions, conferences and other events that foster understanding and communication between the followers of all religions. The day is intended "to spread awareness and knowledge of the thousands of religions practices in the world today, and a sharing of tolerance and understanding between people of all faiths." For Bahá'ís this folds into the core beliefs and tenants of their faith. Globally, the day provides an opportunity and a reminder that all citizens can and should educate themselves on the myriad religions and philosophies that guide and inspire their fellow citizens. For more information, visit <http://www.bahai.us/>.

(Excerpts from <https://www.bahai.org/beliefs/> and <https://www.bahai.org/beliefs/>)

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