

# The Bahá'í Faith

Two Central Beliefs



# Brief Intro: Bahá'í Faith

What is the Bahá'í Faith? It's purpose?

Central Beliefs & Principles

Life & Worship

Additional Resources



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# First, what is this Bahá'í Faith?

The word Bahá'í means follower of Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'u'lláh is the Prophet-Founder. His ministry is the most recent revelation from God which is an independent religion with a worldwide reach.

1817 – 1892 Bahá'u'lláh, a title meaning the Glory of God, was named  
Mírzá Husayn-'Alí

Born into Persian nobility

# What is the Purpose of the Bahá'í Faith?

**Unity at the global level of social organization!**

World peace is not only possible but inevitable.

Bahá'u'lláh provides a vision of the oneness of humanity, a moral framework, and teachings founded on harmony of science and religion which directly address today's problems.

**The Bahá'í Faith's vision is world embracing and its arena of action is the entire globe.**

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# Bahá'í Faith: Two Central Beliefs

- 1: incontrovertible truth that humanity is one**
- 2: humanity's great Faiths have come from one common Source and are expressions of one common unfolding religion





“

*O Thou kind Lord! Thou  
hast created all humanity  
from the same stock.  
Thou hast decreed that  
all shall belong to the  
same household.*





“

*All men have been called  
into being for the  
betterment of the world.  
It behoveth every soul to  
arise and serve his  
brethren for the sake of  
God.*



*In brief, all humanity must be looked upon with love, kindness and respect; for what we behold in them are none other than the signs and traces of God Himself. All are evidences of God; therefore, how shall we be justified in debasing and belittling them, uttering anathema and preventing them from drawing near unto His mercy? This is ignorance and injustice, displeasing to God; for in His sight all are His servants.*








# Bahá'í Faith: Two Central Beliefs

1: the incontrovertible truth that humanity is one

2: humanity's great Faiths have come from one common Source and are expressions of one common unfolding religion



# Chain of Divine Revelers

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- 1817 Bahá'u'lláh, The Glory of God
  - 1819 The Báb, Forerunner to Bahá'u'lláh
  - 570 Muhammad, The Apostle of God
  - 4 BC Jesus Christ, The Son of God
  - 500 BC Buddha
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC Zoroaster
  - Many 1000s BC Moses
  - Many 1000s BC Abraham

# The Twin Manifestations of God

**1863** Bahá'u'lláh, The Glory of God

Referred to by The Báb as

“Him Whom God Shall Make Manifest”

**1844** The Báb, a title meaning The Gate,

Forerunner to Bahá'u'lláh,

named Siyyid 'Alí Muhammad

His Book: The Bayán. He is the Point of the Bayán



“

A passage from  
The Selections from the Writings  
of The Bab  
an analogy and an explanation.  
page 126



*And know thou that He indeed resembleth the sun. Were the risings of the sun to continue till the end that hath no end, yet there hath not been nor ever will be more than one sun; and were its settings to endure for evermore, still there hath not been nor ever will be more than one sun. It is the Primal Will which appeareth resplendent in every Prophet and speaketh forth in every revealed Book. It knoweth no beginning, isasmuch as the First deriveth its firstness from It, and knoweth no end, for the Last oweth its lastness unto It.*





*In the time of the First Manifestation the Primal Will appeared in Adam; in the day of Noah It became known in Noah, in the day of Abraham in Him, and so in the day of Moses; the day of Jesus; the day of Muhammad, the Apostle of God; the day of the 'Point of the Bayan'; the day of Him Whom God shall make manifest; and the day of the One Who will appear after Him Whom God shall make manifest. Hence the inner meaning of the words uttered by the Apostle of God, 'I am all the Prophets', inasmuch as what shineth resplendent in each one of Them hath been and will ever remain the one and the same sun.*





# Bahá'í Faith: Principles (so far)

- ▶ One God
- ▶ One Creator
- ▶ One Family of Humankind
- ▶ One Unfolding Religion of God – The Chain of Revelers

# Bahá'í Faith: Principles (some more)

- ▷ Harmony of Science and Religion
- ▷ Equality of Women and Men
- ▷ Elimination of Prejudice of All Kinds
- ▷ Elimination of the Extremes in Wealth and Poverty
- ▷ Establishment of an Auxiliary Universal Language

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# Life & Worship

- ▷ To know and love God. Daily prayer.
- ▷ Annual fasting. Obedience of the laws. Share the Faith.
- ▷ No clergy in the Faith. Accountable to God.
- ▷ A profession to serve others and to take care of oneself and one's family. Work is worship to God.
- ▷ Service to others. Teach children, for example.
- ▷ Participate in the Faith's Administration.

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# Additional Resources

- ▷ [www.IndyBahai.org](http://www.IndyBahai.org)
  - See Calendar for discussions & devotions schedule.
- ▷ [www.Bahai.org](http://www.Bahai.org)
- ▷ [www.BahaiBlog.org](http://www.BahaiBlog.org)
- ▷ [www.BahaiBookstore.org](http://www.BahaiBookstore.org) Free digital books here.
- ▷ Search YouTube!

**Thank you!**  
**Questions & comments welcome.**

