

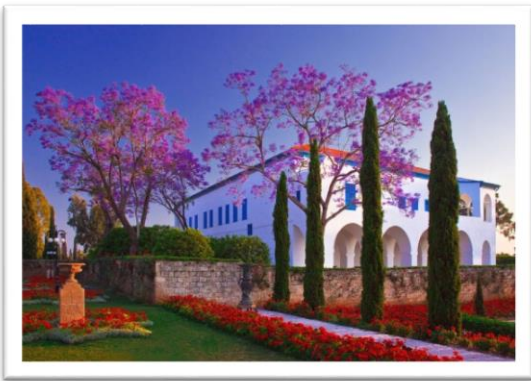
# Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh passed away peacefully in the early hours of 13 'Azamat<sup>1</sup> in the Bahá'í year 49, or 1892 according to the Gregorian calendar. His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, sent a telegram to Sultan 'Abdu'l-Hamíd of Turkey with the news, 'The Sun of Bahá has set'.



The room where Bahá'u'lláh passed away

Large numbers of people came to mourn the passing of Bahá'u'lláh. They included leading officials, clergymen and scholars from 'Akká and Haifa. They were of diverse backgrounds, faiths and nations, Druze, Sunní and Shí'ih Muslims, Christians of various denominations, and Jews. Tributes, poems and eulogies were received from cities as far afield as Damascus, Aleppo, Beirut and Cairo. Although the mourners were not followers of His Faith, they nevertheless realised that a great being had left their midst.



The Mansion of Bahji

Bahá'u'lláh was officially still a prisoner of the Sultan at the time of His ascension, yet some of those same people who had scorned and vilified Him when He had arrived in 'Akká twenty-four years before, now came to pay their respects and lament His loss. Many who first reviled him had become attracted to His radiance and majesty.

Bahá'u'lláh was buried in a small house adjacent to the Mansion of Bahjí, situated outside the city of Akká in what is now northern Israel. The Shrine is

the holiest place on earth for Bahá'ís and the place toward which they turn in prayer each day.

In His will and testament Bahá'u'lláh appointed 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of His Covenant with mankind and the sole authorised interpreter of His revealed Word. His father referred to Him as the 'Greatest Branch', the 'Mystery of God', the 'Master', but following His father's ascension, the name He chose for Himself was 'Abdu'l-Bahá ('the Servant of Bahá'u'lláh'). The will and testament of Bahá'u'lláh is a unique document, as it leaves no doubt as to His successor, thus keeping the Bahá'í community united and free from division. The Covenant, embodied in both the will and testament of Bahá'u'lláh and the will and testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, ensures the preservation of the Faith's unity and guards against corruption and the desire of self-seeking individuals for power. Upon this 'rock of the Covenant', this firm and authoritative foundation, the world order of Bahá'u'lláh is built.



Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh

The anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's ascension is a Holy Day in the Bahá'í calendar, a day of rest and reflection. It is usually observed by reading from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, reciting or chanting His prayers and recalling stories from His remarkable life.

<sup>1</sup> 28 May when Naw-Rúz is 20 March and 29 May when Naw-Rúz is 21 March.