

The Báb

20 October 1819 — 9 July 1850

The Báb (The “Gate”); the title assumed by Siyyid ‘Ali Muḥammad after declaring His mission in Shíráz on 23 May 1844. The Qá’im and Mihdí of Islám.

The Báb’s station is twofold: He is a Manifestation of God and the Founder of the Bábí Faith, and He is the Herald of Bahá’u’lláh.

A detailed, moving, and authoritative work titled *The Dawn-Breakers*, written by Nabil-i-Zarandí and translated by Shoghi Effendi, recounts the Báb’s life and His followers’ exploits.

The remains of the Báb are interred on Mount Carmel in the Shrine of the Báb.

I SWEAR by the most holy Essence of God —exalted and glorified be He—that in the Day of the appearance of Him Whom God shall make manifest a thousand perusals of the Bayan cannot equal the perusal of a single verse to be revealed by Him Whom God shall make manifest.

The Báb

Say, He Whom God shall make manifest is indeed the Primal Veil of God.

The Báb

Bahá’u’lláh

12 November 1817 — 29 May 1892

“The Glory of God”: title of Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí Nuri, Founder of the Bahá’í Faith. For accounts of His life, see *Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By*; *Nabil, The Dawn-Breakers*; and *Balyuzi, Bahá’u’lláh: The King of Glory*.

Bahá’u’lláh is referred to by a variety of titles, including the Promised One of All Ages, the Blessed Beauty, the Blessed Perfection, the Morn of Truth, the Abha Luminary, the Dayspring of the Most Divine Essence, the Ancient Beauty, the Ancient Root, the Ancient of Days, the Author of the Bahá’í Revelation, the Mystic Dove, the Sovereign Revealer, the Judge, the Redeemer, the Divine Physician, the Prince of Peace, the Pen of Glory, the Pen of the Most High, the Supreme Pen, the Lord of Hosts, and the Lord of the Age.

This is the Day in which God’s most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things.

Bahá’u’lláh

This is the Day whereon the Ocean of God’s mercy hath been manifested unto men, the Day in which the Day Star of His loving-kindness hath shed its radiance upon them, the Day in which the clouds of His bountiful favor have overshadowed the whole of mankind.

Bahá’u’lláh

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

23 May 1844 — 28 November 1921

Servant of Bahá: the title assumed by ‘Abbas Effendi, eldest son and appointed successor of Bahá’u’lláh and the Centre of His Covenant.

Upon Bahá’u’lláh’s ascension in 1892, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá became Head of the Bahá’í Faith in accordance with provisions revealed by Bahá’u’lláh in the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas* and the *Book of the Covenant*.

Among the titles by which He is known are the Centre of the Covenant, the Mystery of God, the Master, the Perfect Exemplar of Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings, and the Authorised Interpreter of Bahá’u’lláh’s Teachings.

The Will of the divine Testator is this: It is incumbent upon the Aghsan, the Afnan and My Kindred to turn, one and all, their faces towards the Most Mighty Branch. Consider that which We have revealed in Our Most Holy Book: ‘When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed and the Book of My Revelation is ended, turn your faces toward Him Whom God hath purposed, Who hath branched from this Ancient Root.’ The object of this sacred verse is none other except the Most Mighty Branch [Abdu’l-Bahá].

Bahá’u’lláh

Shoghi Effendi

1 March 1897 — 4 November 1957

The title by which Shoghi Rabbani, great-grandson of Bahá'u'lláh, is generally known to Bahá'ís. (Shoghi is an Arabic name meaning “the one who longs”; Effendi is a Turkish honorific signifying “sir” or “master”.)

He was appointed Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will and assumed the office upon 'Abdu'l-Bahá's passing in 1921.

O my loving friends! After the passing away of this wronged one, it is incumbent upon the Aghsan (Branches), the Afnan (Twigs) of the Sacred Lote-Tree, the Hands (pillars) of the Cause of God and the loved ones of the Abha Beauty to turn unto Shoghi Effendi—the youthful branch branched from the two hallowed and sacred Lote-Trees and the fruit grown from the union of the two offshoots of the Tree of Holiness,—as he is the sign of God, the chosen branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, he unto whom all the Aghsan, the Afnan, the Hands of the Cause of God and His loved ones must turn. He is the Interpreter of the Word of God and after him will succeed the first-born of his lineal descendants.

Abdu'l-Bahá

The **Central Figures** *of the* **Bahá'í Faith**