

cution, Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned in the notorious Edward G. "Bábism." In *Religious Systems of the World: A Contribution to the Study of Comparative Religion*, edited by William Sheowring and Conrad W. Thies, 333–353. London: Swann, 1892.

He was released, but banished—exiled to Baghdad (1853–1863), Constantinople/Istanbul (1863), Adrianople/Edirne (1863–1868), and finally to the prison-city of 'Akká, considered the vilest penal colony of the Ottoman Empire. In 1892, Bahá'u'lláh passed away in Bahjí, near 'Akká in Palestine (now Israel).

Armin. "Undermining the Foundations of (Sacred Law)." In *A Most Noble Pattern: Essays in the Study of the Writings of the Báb*, edited by Todd Lawson. Oxford: George Ronald, forthcoming.

In his article on "Bábism" published that same year, Professor Browne wrote: "I say nothing of the mighty influence which, as I believe, the Bábí faith will exert in the future, nor of the new life it may per- Gate of the Heart: Understanding the chance breathe into a dead people; for, whether it suc- ceed or fail, the splendid heroism of the Bábí martyrs is a thing eternal and indestructible." The "Bábí faith" Walbridge, John. "The Birthday of the Báb." In *Acts, Sacred Space, Sacred Time*, 217–218. Oxford: George Ronald, 1996.

which has since spread worldwide to become the most widely diffused world religion next to Christianity, according to the 2001 World Christian Encyclopedia. Today, Baha'is accept the Báb as a John the Baptist figure, whose words and actions heralded the arrival of Bahá'u'lláh. However, unlike John the Baptist, the Báb Baha'i Faith was founded by Mírzá Husayn-'Alí revealed much in substance, both in terms of doctrine his spiritual title, Bahá'u'lláh (1817–1892), and by

Browne, of the Comparative ring and Swann Eschraghi, of (Sacred in Todd Lawson. forthcoming. Keil, Gerald. Badí' Saiedi, Nader. Writings of Laurier Sacred 218. Oxford: Birth/Ascension of The Núrí, known by 1892), and by

Sayyid ‘Alí-Muhammad of Shíráz
 reenacted, with certain revisions, by Bahá’u’lláh.
 (1819–1850), better known as the Báb (the “Gate”),

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who claimed to be the Qá’im (Ariser/Resurrector), the
 evening of May 22, 1844 (but is dated May 23
 messianic figure expected in Shia Islam, the majority
 Baha’i calendar, the new day begins at
 faith in Iran. Throughout his six-year ministry, the Báb
 previous day).

heralded “Him Whom God Shall Make Manifest,”
 birthdays of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh fall on
 whose advent was imminent. Most of the Bábís (fol-
 consecutive days in the Islamic lunar calendar. “The
 lowers of the Báb) came to accept Bahá’u’lláh as that
 the Abhá Beauty [Bahá’u’lláh],” Bahá’u’lláh
 messianic figure. Most current Baha’i laws, in fact,
 at the hour of dawn on the second day of
 were originally instituted by the Báb and were subse-
 Muharram, the first day of which mar-
 quently selectively ratified and revised by Bahá’u’lláh
 Birth of His Herald [the Báb]. These two days
 and set forth in the preeminent Baha’i scripture, The
 as one in the sight of God.” The expla-
 Most Holy Book (Kitáb-i-Aqdas). The birth of
 statement is that, in the Muslim lunar
 Bahá’u’lláh and the birth of the Báb are therefore
 the birth of the Báb was on the first day of
 closely linked.

Muharram 1235 AH (October 20, 1819),
 Bahá’u’lláh was born on November 12, 1817, in
 of Bahá’u’lláh took place on the sec-
 Tehran, Persia (now Iran). As a young nobleman, he
 Muharram 1233 AH (November 12, 1817).
 became a prominent figure in the Bábí religion. In
 present Baha’i calendar (of 19 months
 1852, while in prison during the unrest that followed
 intercalary days) is solar and roughly
 the Báb’s execution in 1850, Bahá’u’lláh experienced
 conforms to the Common Ear calendar), Baha’is in
 a series of visions and accepted his role as the Prom-
 of the Middle East observe these two
 ised One foretold by the Báb and in the messianic texts
 Days according to the country’s Islamic
 of all religions.

on the
 since, in the
 sunset the
 The
 two
 Birth of
 wrote, “was
 the month of
 keth the
 are accounted
 nation for this
 calendar,
 the month of
 while the birth
 ond day of
 While the
 of 19 days, plus
 many countries
 Baha’i Holy
 lunar calendar

1863), and the Declaration of the Báb, which occurred the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh, his eldest

granted. After

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son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá (1844–1921), was appointed, pursuant to Bahá'u'lláh's will and testament and to provisions of the Most Holy Book, as the appointed "Centre of the Covenant" (successor to Bahá'u'lláh), as the Sacred Acts, Sacred Space, Sacred Time, perfect exemplar of Baha'i ethics and virtues, and as the infallible expounder of his father's teachings.

Momen,

"The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Oxford:

Local Baha'i communities worldwide will therefore gather at that time (3:00 a.m.) to commemorate their founder with Baha'i prayers and scriptures, usually culminating in the chanting in Arabic, or recitation in translation, of what is known as the "Tablet of Visitation," a special prayer reserved for the commemoration of the Báb as well as Bahá'u'lláh. Some Baha'is arrange, through the Office of Pilgrimage at the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa, Israel, to schedule or her initials, H.P.B., was the primary theorist of their pilgrimages around the time of the birth or ascension of Bahá'u'lláh.

Walbridge, John.

In

242–244.

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Walbridge, John.

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In Sacred Acts,

231–232.

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Blavatsky,

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Helena Petrovna

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

Madam Blavatsky

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

mary theoretician

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

founded by

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

and William Quan

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

City in

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

become one

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

organizations of

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

movement of

Madam Blavatsky, "The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh."

birth to numerous

additional Esoteric groups.

on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel, and the shrine of
born Helena Hahn, July 30, 1832,

Bahá'u'lláh, located near Old Acre on Israel's north-
Ekaterinoslav (now Dnepropetrovsk), Ukraine. She
ern coast as World Heritage sites—the first modern
affluent Russian family and came of age

religious edifices to be added to the UNESCO List.) A
was spreading through segments of

large gathering was held there in 1992 on the cente-
As a teenager, she was involved in

nary of Bahá'u'lláh's passing, following which the
spiritual experiences, including automatic writ-

Universal House of Justice, the international govern-
years were spent with her grandfather

ing body of the global Baha'i community, declared the
home following her mother's death in

period from April 1992 to April 1993 as the second
16 when she married a much older

“Baha'i Holy Year” to mark both the centenary itself
N. V. Blavatsky. The marriage proved an

and the inauguration of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh in
experience for the young woman, and aban-

November 1892. doning her
husband, she moved to Constantinople. She

J. Gordon Melton and Christopher Buck stayed in Turkey only a
relatively short time. She pre-

ferred travel and took the opportunity to roam through
See also: Baha'i Faith; Bahá'u'lláh; Birth of the Báb;

Asia and Europe. She traveled around the world twice
Pilgrimage; Temples—Baha'i Faith.

during the 1850s, and in 1856, while in India, made a
References clandestine

attempt to get into Tibet, then forbidden

Bahá'u'lláh et al. *Twin Holy Days: Birthday of* territory to

outsiders. Whether she succeeded in her
Bahá'u'lláh, *Birthday of the Báb: A Compilation.* quest remains a

debatable topic. In any case, investi-
Los Angeles: Kalimát Press, 1995. gating paranormal

phenomena during her travels oc-
Keil, Gerald. *Time and the Baha'i Era: A Study of the* cupied much of

her time. She became a medium and in
Badí' *Calendar.* Oxford: George Ronald, 2008. 1871, in Cairo, she

founded a Spiritualist society. The

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