

DECLARATION IN THE RIDVÁN GARDEN

The Persian authorities were worried about so many people coming to see Bahá'u'lláh, so they persuaded the Turkish authorities in Iraq to send Him even further away. Before He left, Bahá'u'lláh called together some of the believers, and in a garden, which He later called Ridván (which means "Paradise"), He told them of His Mission from God.

Later, Bahá'u'lláh said that this is "the Day which all the Prophets, the Chosen Ones, and the holy ones, have wished to witness" and that "this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One".

He said that the reason why God tells us what He would like us to do is to make us good and happy, and that we should beautify our tongues with truthfulness, and be honest, just and generous. He said we should not hate one another but always be kind and loving. We should be patient with one another, and help each other to understand the truth. If we cannot do something as well as someone else, it does not matter -- the important thing is to do our best.



Bahá'u'lláh said that it is better to be killed than to kill someone, and that we must be obedient to the government of the country in which we live.

Because the believers obeyed what Bahá'u'lláh said, the authorities trusted them. Bahá'u'lláh was treated with love and respect, and when He left Baghdad many people were in tears because He was leaving.

Questions:

- a) What was the name of the garden where Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission?
- b) What did He tell the believers in the Garden of Ridvan? (see first paragraph)
- c) What did He say was special about this Day? (see second paragraph)
- d) What does God tell us He would like us to do? (there are 14 things in paragraphs 3 and 4)
- e) What happened when the believers obeyed Bahá'u'lláh?
- f) Choose one of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh mentioned in paragraph 3 and see how well you can do it during the next week.