

# BAHA'I

## I. History

A. Begin in Persia (Iran) from Shia (Shite) Islam

B. The imams of the Twelvers are gates (Babs) to give access to the true faith.

C. The hidden imam, "Muhammad Al-Muntazar," (d. 874 ce.) Desires additional gates to conduct people to him.

D. Mirza Ali Muhammad in 1844 proclaims himself the thirteenth gate, and is then called "Bab-ud-Din," or "Gate of Faith." In the United States he is generally called "The Bab."

THE BEGINNING OF THE HEROIC AGE - PRIMITIVE AGE - APOSTOLIC AGE

His job is to prepare the way for one who is greater than he.

His writings are equal and perhaps superior to the Quran.

He advocates religious, political and social reform.

He is executed in 1850 as a Muslim heretic and threat to Muslim culture.

E. Bahauallah (Glory of God) (b. 12 Nov. 1817 - d. 29 May 1892) is a follower

He is accused of trying to assassinate the shah in 1852 and is exiled to Bagdad (Iraq)

He announces, after ten years in Bagdad, that he is one about whom the Bab prophesied.

He moves with his followers, now called Bahais to several location.

Eventually he is arrested in Acre, Palestine by the Turks.

He writes extensively while in prison in Palestine.

F. Bahauallah's son, 'Abdul-Baha becomes leader

Abdul-Baha dies in 1921. END OF HEROIC - PRIMITIVE - APOSTOLIC AGE..

Beginning of the formative, transitional and iron age.

G. Reign of the Will and Testament of Abdul-baha, The Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice are established.

H. NEXT WILL COME THE GOLDEN AGE OF FAITH WITH A WORLD LANGUAGE AND A WORLD CIVILIZATION.

I. 6,000,000 members world-wide, 300,000 ,embers in the United States.

J. Bahai saying. "Judaism is a religion of law, Christianity is a religion of love, Islam is a religion of obedience, Bahai is the religion of the proper unity of law, love, and obedience to God.

## Doctrines

1. The unity of God

2. The harmony of all prophecy when correctly understood - including Jewish, Christian, Islam, and Indian and Oriental.
3. All world religions contain some truth
4. All world realigns should unite
5. The human race is one. There are no separate races, and there should be no racial or prejudice.

#### Later History

- A. Outlawed and persecuted in Iran, Iraq, and to some degree in the Islamic world.
- B. Headquartered in Haifa in Israel
- C. Active all over the world, especially in the United States.
  1. U.S. center is in Wilmette, IL
- D. Bahai architecture.
- E. World Order magazine. (New world order)
- W. Growing, but success may be limited by the intellectual nature of it teachings, and lack of emotion.

#### III. POLITY

Stress on developing a common language. At first Esperanto

Stress on the unity of all education. Teaching through the arts, and music. For example the black and white keys on the piano are a witness for racial tolerance, and you can make better music together.

#### IV. SCRIPTURE

- A. Writings of Bahauallah
- B. Writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha - Son of Bahauallah and a great missionary between 1910 - 1921.
  - B. Many books
    1. Rost, H. T. D., The Brilliant Stars: The Baha'i Faith and the Education of Children, Oxford: George Ronald Press, 1979
    2. Townsend, George, Christ and Baha'u'llah, Oxford: George Ronald Press, 1966
    3. Essiemont, J. E., Bahauallah and the New Era, Wilmette, Illinois: Bahai Publishing Trust, 1978