

TO UNDERSTAND THE STATION OF THE BÁB

THE HERALD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND THE HARBINGER OF THE MOST GREAT LIGHT

**SPIRITUAL QUALITIES RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC:
COURAGE, HUMILITY, LOYALTY, PURPOSEFULNESS**

O hour of the Dawn! Ere the resplendent glory of the divine Luminary sheddeth its radiance from the Dayspring of this Gate, call thou to mind that the appointed Day of God will indeed be at hand in less than the twinkling of an eye. Thus hath the decree of God been issued in the Mother Book.

The Báb, *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, p. 68

Such stories regarding the life of different prophets together with their sayings will also be useful to better understand the literature of the Cause for there is constant reference to them. It is, however, the work of experienced people to bring together such material and make of them interesting textbooks for the children.

Shoghi Effendi, *Compilation of Compilations*, Vol. 1, p. 299

TOPIC: THE HERALD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND THE HARBINGER OF THE MOST GREAT LIGHT

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES



KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

- To know that the Manifestation of the Báb is the link between the Adamic Cycle and the Cycle of Fulfillment
- To know that the Báb is the Herald, the Forerunner, and the Harbinger of Bahá'u'lláh

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Make a time line showing the Progressive Revelation of the Adamic Cycle and the beginning of the Cycle of Fulfillment, and showing the position of the Báb as the bridging Manifestation.
- Read quotations from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb on this topic and memorize short selections from those Writings.
- Share and discuss their meaning in cooperative groups.
- Listen to and share stories from *The Dawn-Breakers*.



WISDOM OBJECTIVES

- To understand that the primary mission of the Báb was to prepare the people for the Coming of Bahá'u'lláh
- To understand that the Báb exhorted His followers to seek out and obey Bahá'u'lláh as the One He promised

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Make a personal illustrated storybook about the Dawn-Breakers.
- Identify and study passages from the Writings of the Báb that guided His followers to recognize the Promised One. Reflect and meditate on these Writings.
- Role play discussion sessions occurring at the time of the Báb in which the Bábís considered their individual preparation, search for, and recognition of, the Promised One.
- Compose a list of clues given in the Writings of the Báb to recognize the Promised One.
- Use the analogy of keys to unlock mysteries, with the elements in the Writings of the Báb for recognizing Bahá'u'lláh.

TOPIC: THE HERALD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND THE HARBINGER OF THE MOST GREAT LIGHT



SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVES

- To perceive the uniqueness of that period of the world’s religious history—the time of the Twin Manifestations of God
- To appreciate the unique connection between the Revelation of the Báb and the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Ponder the times when messengers were sent between the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh, and the nature of the unique relationship between the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh.
- Role play the attitude of one who might be such a messenger between the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh.
- Study the elements in ‘The Tablet of the True Seeker’ as a way of preparing for recognition of and belief in the new Manifestation of God.
- Through poetry reflect and demonstrate one’s understanding of living at the time of the Twin Manifestations.



ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate their understanding of the significance of the Báb’s relationship to Bahá’u’lláh
- To make a personal commitment to one’s role in realizing this majestic time with the Twin Manifestations

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Prepare a personal plan to follow the “Tablet of the True Seeker.”
- Prepare an exhibit of the personal, illustrated Dawn-Breaker books.
- Make a presentation to the community about what it might have been like to be a believer at the time of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh (and share learners’ poetry).
- Eloquently read a quotation from the Báb or Bahá’u’lláh as part of a presentation on this topic.
- Prepare firesides or devotional programs on the bounty and spiritual characteristics of living at the time of the Twin Manifestations.

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Sample Activities

ACTIVITY: TWIN MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVE: To know that the Báb is the Herald, the Forerunner, and the Harbinger of Bahá'u'lláh

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To perceive the uniqueness of that period of the world's religious history – the time of the twin Manifestations of God

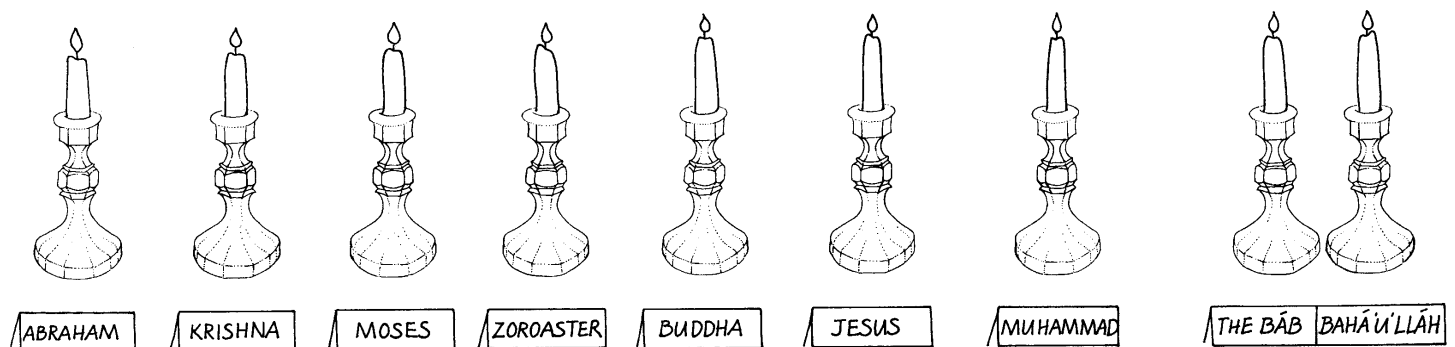
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Direct use of the Sacred Writings; Education directed towards recognition of God; Use of reflection

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 45 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- copy of *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*
- 9 candles and matches
- name cards of Manifestations

1. Prepare a darkened room, with 7 candles in holders placed in a line, equidistant to each other on several tables placed end to end, or on a cleared length of floor. Place name cards for the previous Manifestations by these, as shown below. Place 2 more candles at the far end of the line, but directly next to each other. Place name cards for the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh by these.
2. Invite the students to sit where they can safely see the candles being lit. Beginning with the candle marked "Abraham", light the candle and remark that God sent Abraham to mankind so that His Teachings would light the world's darkness and illumine our way for hundreds of years.
3. Place your hand near the lit candle; remark how much light the Teachings of Abraham gave out in the days nearest to the Manifestation, but that as years and years passed the light of Abraham's Teachings dimmed. Move your hand towards the next, unlit, candle as you speak.
4. Remind the students that God will never leave humanity in darkness, thus He sends another Manifestation. Light the next candle, the one marked "Moses", and repeat the discussion about the potency of the light of that Revelation near to Moses' time, and as time passed, while moving your hand.



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5. Repeat the pattern of candle-lighting and explanation, until you reach the candle representing the Báb's Revelation. After lighting this candle have students observe that it gives out the same amount of light as any of the other candles.
6. Explain that God had some very special plans for humanity in this Day. Almost immediately after the Báb's Revelation was revealed, God gave us another Light, that of Bahá'u'lláh. Light the last candle.
7. Invite the students to share their observations. Guide them, if necessary, to realize that more light is generated by the two candles together than by single candles, and that the light extends further.
8. Discuss the uniqueness of the Twin Manifestations in religious history, as demonstrated by the two candles together.
9. Read aloud the following quotation and discuss its meaning:

O Hour of the Dawn! Ere the resplendent glory of the divine Luminary sheddeth its radiance from the Dayspring of this Gate, call thou to mind that the appointed Day of God will indeed be at hand in less than the twinkling of an eye. Thus hath the decree of God been issued in the Mother Book.

The Báb, Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 68
10. Focus the students' attention on the candles representing the Báb's and Bahá'u'lláh's Revelations. Ask them if, from this demonstration, it appears that the Báb's Mission was to provide God's guidance for mankind for hundreds of years? Encourage replies that notice that the Báb's Revelation is a complete light of its own, but merges completely with and shines out as a part of the Bahá'í Revelation.
11. Encourage students to explain these ideas to one other person, either a family member or a friend, before the next class. Remember to invite students to describe their experiences at the next class.

ACTIVITY: THE BÁB AND BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To appreciate the unique connection between the Revelation of the Báb and the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Direct use of the Bahá'í sacred writings; use of memorization; use of stories; use of consultation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 45 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- *The Central Figures: The Báb, Volume Two* (available 2004)

1. Read aloud the stories provided for this topic and discuss the questions provided in the appendix.
2. Encourage students to memorize the quotation provided for the previous activity.
3. Discuss the ways that this quotation is illustrated by the stories in this volume.

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ACTIVITY: THE BÁB'S RELATIONSHIP TO BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

WISDOM OBJECTIVE: To understand that the primary mission of the Báb was to prepare the people for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVES: To demonstrate understanding of the significance of the Báb's relationship to Bahá'u'lláh; To make a personal commitment to one's role in realizing this majestic time with the Twin Manifestations

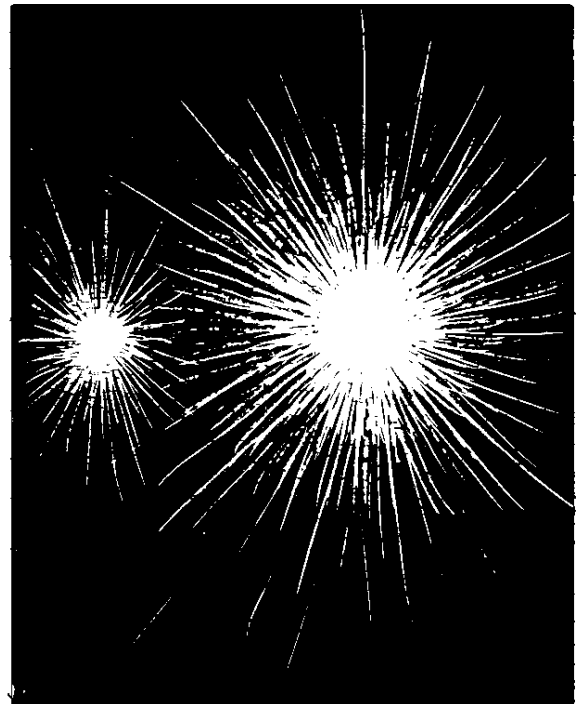
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Direct use of the Sacred Writings; Education directed towards recognition of God; Engage the mind and heart; Use of consultation; Use of arts

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 1 HR.

Materials Needed:

- copies of Resource Pages 37-40
- paper and writing/drawing materials

1. Distribute copies of Resource Pages 37-40. Invite various students to read aloud slowly and carefully the statements by the Báb. Remind them that the Báb does not refer to Bahá'u'lláh by Name, but usually refers to Him as "Him Whom God shall make manifest."
2. Discuss the meanings and implications of these passages.
3. Invite the students to write, in their own words, their understanding of the connection between the Revelation of the Báb and that of Bahá'u'lláh. They may choose to incorporate words or phrases of the Báb in their statements.
4. Encourage them to illustrate their explanations, using metaphors used by the Báb, i.e., Light, Tree, Ring.
5. Discuss: What should be our own relationship to the Revelations of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, in light of the Báb's Words? If we are to be faithful to the Teachings of the Báb, how should we respond to Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings and Laws?
6. Distribute copies of Resource Pages 39-40. Learn to sing these beautiful words of the Báb that refer to God Himself and Bahá'u'lláh, the Manifestation of God.
7. Invite each student to privately record their own response to Bahá'u'lláh, as a way of fulfilling the Báb's Revelation. Provide time for them to write their pledges, if they like, on the back of their illuminated statements.
8. Encourage them to place these statements where they will see them every day as reminder of their own response to the Twin Manifestations.



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Resource Pages

THE BÁB'S RELATIONSHIP TO BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Take good heed of yourselves, O people of the Bayán, lest ye perform such deeds as to weep sore for His sake night and day, to stand up at the mention of His Name, yet on this Day of fruition—a Day whereon ye should not only arise at His name, but seek a path unto Him Who personifies that Name—ye shut yourselves out from Him as by a veil.

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 84-5

At the time of the appearance of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh]...the Point of the Bayán [the Báb] is none other than Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh]...

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p.95

The purpose underlying this Revelation, as well as those that preceded it, has, in like manner, been to announce the advent of the Faith of Him Whom God will make manifest. And this Faith—the Faith of Him Whom God will make manifest—in its turn, together with all the Revelations gone before it, have as their object the Manifestation destined to succeed it. And the latter, no less than all the Revelations preceding it, prepare the way for the Revelation which is yet to follow. The process of the rise and setting of the Sun of Truth will thus indefinitely continue—a process that hath had no beginning and will have no end.

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 106

All this is to glorify the Cause of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh] at the time of His manifestation...

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p.148

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Wert thou to open the heart of a single soul by helping him to embrace the Cause of Him Whom God shall make manifest, thine inmost being would be filled with the inspirations of that august Name. It devolveth upon you, therefore, to perform this task in the Days of the Resurrection, inasmuch as most people are helpless, and wert thou to open their hearts and dispel their doubts, they would gain admittance into the Faith of God. Therefore, manifest thou this attribute to the utmost of thine ability in the days of Him Whom God shall make manifest. For indeed if thou dost open the heart of a person for His sake, better will it be for thee than every virtuous deed; since deeds are secondary to faith in Him and certitude in His Reality.

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 133

The glory of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh] is immeasurably above every other glory, and His majesty is far above every other majesty... Every light paleth before the radiance of His light...

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, pp.156-7

It behooveth you to await the Day of the appearance of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh]. Indeed My aim in planting the Tree of the Bayán hath been none other than to enable you to recognize Me... However, when the Tree of the Bayán attaineth its highest development, We shall bend it low as a token of adoration towards its Lord Who will appear in the Person of Him Whom God shall make manifest' [Bahá'u'lláh].

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, pp.167-8

...the Point of the Bayán Himself [the Báb] hath believed in Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh] before all things were created...all that hath been exalted in the Bayán is but a ring upon My hand, and I Myself am, verily, but a ring upon the hand of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh]...

Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p.168

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O GOD, MY GOD

Words of the Báb Music by Tom Price

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Adagio (Passionately)

Em Bm/D Am/C G/B C D E

O God, my God, my Be - lov - ed,

Em Bm/D Am/C G/B C D E

O God, my God, my heart's de - sire!

C D/A D/F# Bm/D G A B

O God, my God, my Be - lov - ed,

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C B Am C6 1. B

O God, my God, my heart's de - sire!

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a half note 'O', followed by quarter notes 'God', 'my', 'God', 'my', and a half note 'heart's', ending with a quarter note 'de' and a half note 'sire!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal melody.

2. B Em Bm C6 Am6 Bm7 Bm/D B

sire! My heart's de - sire, my heart's de -

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line starts with a half note 'sire!', followed by quarter notes 'My', 'heart's', a half note 'de -', quarter notes 'sire,', 'my', 'heart's', and a half note 'de -'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

Em B B7 Esus D2/F# E

sire, my heart's de - sire!

The third system concludes the musical score. The vocal line begins with a half note 'sire,', followed by quarter notes 'my', 'heart's', a half note 'de -', quarter notes 'sire!', and a final half note. The piano accompaniment concludes with chords and moving lines, ending with a final chord in the bass clef.

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LIST OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stories & Articles:

Brilliant Star: “That Memorable Night” Jul/Aug 94
“The Joy and Wonder” Nov/Dec 98
“Glimpses of the Báb” Sep/Oct 99
“The Báb Prepared the Way” Jan/Feb 02
“The Twin Messengers” Nov/Dec 02
“The Greater Covenant” Sp Ed 92
“Always With Us” May/June 97
God Passes By, pp. 27-31
The Covenant for Young People, p. 10
The Story as Told, pp. 48-53

Worksheets and Coloring Pages:

Activities:

Brilliant Star: “The Greater Covenant,” “Bead Chain of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant,” and “Bahá'u'lláh's Gift to the World,” Sp Ed 1992
“The Life of the Báb” Jul/Aug 94

Music:

Brilliant Star: “The Mirrors” Jan/Feb 1985
“The Covenant,” , Special Edition 1992
“Reverence,” Nov/Dec 95
Come and Sing, “Reverence”
Lift Up Your Voices and Sing, “Soldiers in God's Army”
Lote Tree, “The Báb”
Music of the Bahá'í World Congress, “Expectation”
We are Bahá'ís, “Song of the Prophets”

Games:

Brilliant Star “Bahá'í Dominoes” Jul/Aug 92

Poetry:

An Anthology for Bahá'í Children, “The Story of God's Cause”, p. 45-47

Videos:

List other favorite resources:

The Covenant for Young People

If you find any additional resources, please notify the National Teacher Training Center, or submit your findings to the Educational Materials web site.