

# Notes for teachers using the film Bahá'u'lláh – the Divine Physician

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Bahá'í RE



## Bahá'u'lláh - the Divine Physician



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide background information to teachers in UK schools using the short film for the Bahá'í bicentenary, 'Bahá'u'lláh - the Divine Physician'.

## 2. SPECIFICATION

Title: Bahá'u'lláh - The Divine Physician

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Link: [https://youtu.be/Gzs\\_11Xk6zg](https://youtu.be/Gzs_11Xk6zg) (YouTube)

Primary Purpose: The film is intended as a stimulus for learning, leading to a better understanding of the significance of the Bahá'í Bicentenary period extending from October 2017 to October 2019

Secondary purpose: To explore how Bahá'u'lláh's teachings about the Oneness of Mankind are of immense value to modern life.

Age range: While the film can be used as a stimulus for anyone of 9 and above, these notes and the supporting materials cited are designed for upper Key Stage 2 (age 9-11) and Key Stage 3 (age 11-14)

Running time: 17 minutes 25 seconds. It may be stopped and restarted at will during lessons derived from the presentation, but it is preferable to run it non-stop the first time the pupils watch it.

Themes: The oneness of mankind; unity of religion; problems in today's world, messengers of God and their role in healing the world's problems; the mission of Bahá'u'lláh

Timeline: see below

Further information about the Bahá'í Bicentenary: The Báb was born on 1<sup>st</sup> of the Muslim month of Muharram in 1819, and Bahá'u'lláh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Muharram in 1817. Starting in October 2017, the Bahá'í world is embarking upon a two-year period of Bicentennial commemoration.

### 3. EXPANSION WORK

Materials for expansion work: The Bahá'í RE website at <http://re.bahai.org.uk> provides downloadable resources and information to assist in teaching about the Bahá'í Faith. Hardcopy materials are also available, including a Key Stage 2 and a Key Stage 3 Teacher's Pack with worksheets, leaflets, books and posters.

Suggested expansion themes:

- (a) Is the oneness of religion a realistic goal or a description of reality, or are religions destined to disagree?
- (b) What would be the benefits and disadvantages if the system of unfettered state sovereignty were to give way to a stronger United Nations system or even a world government?
- (c) Most children and their parents know little about the Bahá'í Faith; does the Bahá'í Bicentenary have anything to teach them?
- (d) The young people in the film clearly enjoyed working together, recognising both their unity and diversity. What lessons, if anything, does this hold for us?
- (e) Bahá'u'lláh taught that all religions come from the same God. Is this a credible position to take? What do the religions have in common?
- (f) What would Bahá'u'lláh write to world leaders today?
- (g) Bahá'u'lláh passed up the opportunity to be rich and lead an easy life. Why did he do this, and what examples are there of other people who have done something similar?
- (h) How does their faith help the young people in the film when life gets hard?
- (i) How do the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh help the young people in the film make moral decisions?

## 4. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

“Bahá'í” means “follower of Glory”. Bahá'ís follow the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means “the Glory of God”. Bahá'u'lláh was born in October 1817, the son of provincial nobility, and became noted for his generosity and for his concern for the poor. In 1844 a young merchant, a Siyyid (a descendent of the Prophet Muhammad), declared himself to be the “Báb”, or “Gate”, to a new age, and spoke of a new world teacher who would arise. The Báb's following grew rapidly, particularly among the clergy, and the Shah's ministers exiled him to solitary confinement in Northern Iran, where he was subsequently shot in the public square of Tabriz.

Soon after he declared his mission, the Báb had sent a messenger to Bahá'u'lláh, who instantly became a follower of the Báb. After the execution of the Báb, many of the Báb's followers were executed, and Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned in 1852, embarking on a succession of imprisonment and exiles which would last for the rest of his earthly life, culminating in 1868 in his incarceration in the Ottoman prison city of Akka in what is now Israel. From then until his passing in 1892 Bahá'u'lláh was confined to that city and its outskirts.

During his exile, Bahá'u'lláh declared himself to be the Báb's promised World Teacher, and promulgated teachings for a new world. From his cell in Akka, he wrote to the rulers of the world, addressing them individually, and calling upon them to usher in a new and united world. This film provides a glimpse of some of his teachings.

Bahá'u'lláh taught that there is one God, “an Unknowable Essence”, but whose attributes can be understood by looking at the character and teachings of the founders of the world's great religions, whom he calls “Manifestations of God”. They are not only teachers, but mirror the attributes of God. Their messages differ only because the needs of one age might not be those of a former age, thus a Manifestation may restate the spiritual teachings of a former age yet provide social teachings to fit the contemporary state of society. These differences have led to enmity between religions which actually come from, and worship, the same God.

Bahá'u'lláh taught that we are living in the age when the planet will be united. “This earth is but one country and mankind its citizens”. Men and women are equal; science and religion are essentially in harmony; all children should learn a universal auxiliary language as well as their own. Warfare and strife should cease, and efforts should be focused upon advancing a universal civilisation.

Central to maintaining the unity of the new world was to be an elective system, with local and national “Houses of Justice”, and a “Universal House of Justice” at its apex. In 1890 Bahá'u'lláh pointed out the site on Mount Carmel, close to Akka, where the Bahá'í World Centre would be established.

## 5. TIMELINE

Seconds	Section
00:00	Young people introduce the film; the world 200 years ago
00:34	The dream of Bahá'u'lláh's father (animation)
01:46	Peace, Hope and Unity
02:06	Who was this child? Bahá'u'lláh, the Divine Physician
02:32	The News (background) – famine, negativity, fear and hatred, self-love
03:19	The young people introduce themselves
04:01	Personal reflections on Bahá'u'lláh and his writings
04:56	Youth will carry these ideas into the future
05:11	Young people all around the world study in junior youth groups
06:20	Young people are of different faiths, yet work together
07:07	Constructive and Destructive forces in society
07:30	“We are all the same, we are still people”
07:49	Discussing racism and religious prejudice
08:40	Poverty, addiction, body image
09:20	Misunderstanding of scripture can lead to violence in God's name
09:40	The need for selfless and intelligent leaders
10:08	Animation with the casualties of the current ills
10:44	Young people introduce the next animation: Bahá'u'lláh's remedy
10:57	Bahá'u'lláh's world-changing teachings (animation)
11:11	Letters to the rulers
11:32	The dawn of a new age
11:59	The Shah, Bádi (the messenger to the Shah)
12:24	Queen Victoria – voting, slavery
12:40	Queen Marie of Rumania; her open letter
13:45	The Divine Physician – casualties line up outside clinic (animation)
14:19	Bahá'u'lláh's remedies
14:25	Oneness of Religion
14:44	Working together
14:51	Equality of Men and Women
15:24	Oneness of Humanity
15:44	The value of trust in the community
16:00	Dare to be different
16:08	The earth is but one country
16:18	There is always some light in the darkness
16:46	Bahá'u'lláh's exile and imprisonment
17:00	Strive for unity
17:26	Close