

MAZRA 'IH

'Abdu'l-Bahá managed to rent a house called Mazra'ih about six kilometers north of 'Akká, and it was to this residence that Bahá'u'lláh moved when He finally departed the walled prison city in early June 1877. He was to live two years in the house.

After years of strict confinement in the city of 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh found great enjoyment at Mazra'ih. In one tablet He describes in cheerful language the view of the sea on one side and the hills of Galilee on the other, and speaks of the charm of the trees laden with oranges that He likens to balls of fire.

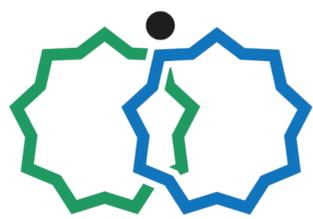


The house itself was a stone building of simple design, set in gardens. The best view was eastward to the Galilee hills. Bahá'u'lláh lived in the house with members of His family and His amanuensis. 'Abdu'l-Bahá and his sister, Bahíyyih Khánum, stayed back in the walled city of 'Akká but visited frequently.



The freedom of living at Mazra'ih allowed Bahá'u'lláh to meet pilgrims who came to see Him from throughout the Ottoman Empire and beyond.

During His time at the Mansion of Mazra'ih, Bahá'u'lláh wrote many tablets to individuals which were delivered by trusted Bahá'ís.



RIDVÁN GARDEN

The Ridván Garden, located outside the city of 'Akká, was rented by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1875 and prepared for Bahá'u'lláh's use. Bahá'u'lláh visited this garden many times during the latter part of His life.

The garden had water running on both sides, leading Bahá'u'lláh to refer to it as the "verdant isle." Some of the benches, including the one used by Bahá'u'lláh, had water flowing just below them.



When Bahá'u'lláh came to the Ridván Garden, He would often sit under the mulberry tree, with the water flowing by, and exult in the beauty of nature.

For Bahá'u'lláh, the garden and the small building at the site provided a place of rest from the daily cares of His household and the pilgrims that thronged to see Him. The word "Ridván" means "Paradise." Below is the house in which Bahá'u'lláh stayed during His visits to the Ridván Garden.

During one period, Bahá'u'lláh stayed at the Ridván Garden for nine days, meeting with the pilgrim groups that came out each day from 'Akká to see Him. In 1881, the Ridván Garden was purchased for Bahá'u'lláh. Pilgrims still go to the little house t here for prayer and meditation.

