



Roses of Love



"In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold." —Bahá'u'lláh

Imagine learning that a new Messenger of God is living on Earth, but His identity is a mystery. In the mid-1800s, a Messenger of God called the Báb told His followers, the Bábís, that another Messenger would soon come.

In April 1863, in Baghdád, Iraq, the mystery was solved in a place called the Garden of Ridván. Bahá'u'lláh, a Persian nobleman, announced that He was the Messenger of God promised by the Báb. He said that a new Messenger would not appear for another 1,000 years. He also forbade the use of violence to defend or promote religion, and He indicated that it

was the beginning of a new era for humanity. The Bábís were overjoyed with His announcement.

Bahá'u'lláh spent 12 days in the Ridván Garden before departing for Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey. Every day, gardeners laid roses in the center of Bahá'u'lláh's tent. The pile grew so high that visitors couldn't see over it.

The Festival of Ridván is celebrated from April 21 to May 2. The first, ninth, and twelfth days (April 21, April 29, and May 2) are Holy Days on which work or school should be suspended. Around the world, Bahá'ís celebrate Ridván with prayers, parties, and other festivities.

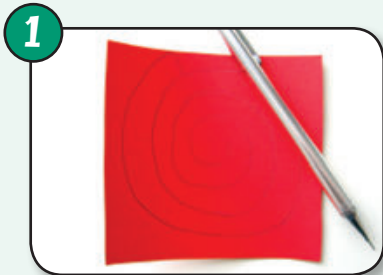


Paper Rose Perfection

Create paper roses in different sizes and colors, and use them as decorations for Ridván or other special events. Display them in a bowl as a centerpiece, glue them to a wreath made from cardboard, or hide them around a room for guests to find.

You'll Need

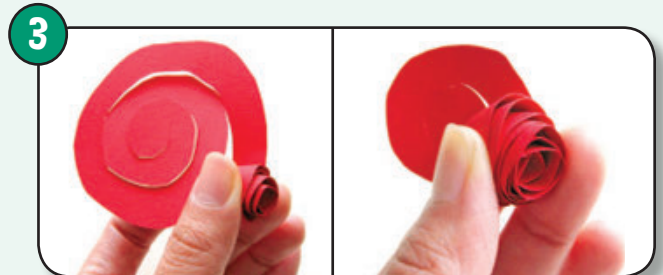
- 4" x 4" (10 cm x 10 cm) squares of colored paper
- pencil, scissors, and glue



Starting from the center of the paper, draw a spiral about 1/2" (1.3 cm) wide and continue until you reach the edge.



With scissors, trim off excess paper around spiral. Then cut along the line you've drawn until you reach the middle.



Starting from the outside, roll the paper spiral. Keep rolling until you reach the round part at the center.



To secure the flower, place a drop or two of glue between the flower and the rounded end underneath it. Let dry.



TIP Make a 4" x 4" rose, then try papers between 2" x 2" (5 cm x 5 cm) and 6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm). Adjust the width of the spiral accordingly, so it circles the sheet about four times.