



The Sadratu'l-Muntahá

THE TREE OF THE DIVINE REVELATION

The Sadratu'l-Muntahá ("the Tree beyond which there is no passing") is a mystical tree said to stand at the loftiest point in Paradise, and to mark the place beyond which neither men nor angels can pass. In Bahá'í terminology it refers to the Manifestation of God.

This universal mystical symbol of the Divine appears in Slavic, Native and South American, African, Celtic, Zoroastrian, Assyrian, Buddhist and Hindu spiritual traditions.

Originally it designated a tree which, in ancient times, the Arabs planted to mark the end of the road.

References to the Divine Lote Tree in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Judaism

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 2:9

Christianity

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

REVELATIONS 22:2

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city

REVELATIONS 22:14

Islam

For indeed he saw him at a second descent,
Near the Lote-tree beyond which none may pass:
Near it is the Garden of Abode.
Behold, the Lote-tree was shrouded
(in mystery unspeakable!)
(His) sight never swerved, nor did it go wrong!
For truly did he see, of the Signs of his Lord,
the Greatest!

QURÁN 53:13–18

a Tree with many names

עֵץ הַחַיִּים

سِدْرَةُ الْمُنْتَهَى

Sadratu'l-Muntahá

THE DIVINE LOTE-TREE

The Burning Bush

The Tree of Eternity

The Sidrah Tree

THE TREE OF THE WORLD OF EXISTENCE

The Tree of Life

The Blessed Lote-Tree

The Celestial Tree

The Tree of Holiness

THE TREE OF THE DIVINE
REVELATION

The Sacred Tree

The Lotus Tree

The Tree of divine Truth

**The Tree that belongeth neither
to the East nor to the West**

The Tree beyond which there is no passing

Excerpts from the Bahá'í Writings

O ye kinsmen of the Most Great Remembrance! This Tree of Holiness, dyed crimson with the oil of servitude, hath verily sprung forth out of your own soil in the midst of the Burning Bush, yet ye comprehend nothing whatever thereof...

THE BÁB

O ye peoples of the earth! Hearken unto My call, ringing forth from the precincts of this Sacred Tree - a Tree set ablaze by the pre-existent Fire: There is no God but Him; He is the Exalted, the All-Wise.

THE BÁB

That which is intended by "Revelation of God" is the Tree of divine Truth that betokeneth none but Him, and it is this divine Tree that hath raised and will raise up Messengers, and hath revealed and will ever reveal Scriptures.

THE BÁB

This is the divinely-inscribed Book. This is the outspread Tablet. Say, this indeed is the Frequented Fane, the sweet-scented Leaf, the Tree of the divine Revelation(...) Say, this of a certainty is the Garden of Repose, the Loftiest Point of adoration, the Tree beyond which there is no passing, the blessed Lote-Tree...The most comely Face.

THE BÁB

The blessed Lote-Tree standeth, in this day, before thy face, laden with heavenly, with new and wondrous fruits. Gaze on it, detached from all else save it. O Muhammad! Hearken unto the Voice proceeding out of the Realm of Glory, calling aloud from the celestial Tree which has risen above the land of Za'farán.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He is the King, the All-Knowing, the Wise. Lo the Nightingale of Paradise singeth upon the twigs of the Tree of Eternity, with holy and sweet melodies, proclaiming to the sincere ones the glad tidings of the nearness of God...

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We have attired thee with the vesture of My good-pleasure in My heavenly Kingdom, and from the Divine Lote-Tree which is raised on the borders of the vale of security and peace, situate in the Luminous Spot beyond the glorious City...

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O 'Alí! That which they accepted from the Bush they now refuse to accept from Him Who is the Tree of the world of existence....Most of the peoples of the earth attest the truth of the blessed Word which hath come forth from the Bush...O kindreds of the earth! Incline your ears unto the Voice from the divine Lote-Tree which overshadoweth the world and be not of the people of tyranny on earth.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Every discerning eye can, in this Day, perceive the dawning light of God's Revelation, and every attentive ear can recognize the Voice that was heard from the Burning Bush.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

This is the Day wherein the divine Lote-Tree calleth aloud, saying: O people! Behold ye My fruits and My leaves, incline then your ears unto My rustling. Beware lest the doubts of men debar you from the light of certitude.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

A physical Lote Tree

Just as the Nightingale of Paradise has a physical counterpart in the natural world, as we fondly remember the nightingales singing so joyously (and very loudly) in the Garden of Ridván in 1863, there is also a physical Lote Tree.

The Sadratu'l-Muntahá designated a tree which, in ancient times, the Arabs planted to mark the end of the road

In fact, these three species of the Ziziphus genus are considered in different geographical areas of the world to be the physical representation of the symbol of the Sadratu'l-Muntahá in physical form, a tree that grows strong and proud in the harshest of environments.

[Ziziphus Spina-Christi](#) grows in Palestine and is said to have been the tree that the crown of thorns of Jesus Crhist was fashioned from, hence the name, “Spina Christi”, but of course this is debated and the Wiki goes into it.



A Ziziphus Spina-Christi Tree in Iran

[Ziziphus Lotus](#) grows in Arabia and is said to be the Lotus Tree of Greek mythology (the Lotus Eaters in the Odyssey) but in Arabia, this is the tree they believe to be mentioned in the Qurán.



[Ziziphus Jujuba](#) also grows in Arabia and Asia and is also known as the Jujube or Red Date tree. This one is also considered by some to be the “real” Lote Tree.



References:

You can read more about the Lote tree in *The Verse of Light*, the *Sadratu'l-Muntahá (Divine Lote Tree)*, and the *Unfoldment of God's Plan* by Shirley Macias (1991) below

https://bahai-library.com/macias_verse_light#fnB18

You can find all the excerpts from the Bahá'í Writings in the Bahá'í Reference Library where they were copied from:

<https://www.bahai.org/library/>

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I made this for personal reflection and meditation and am happy to share it.

Please let me know if you have suggestions or comments, with love,

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