

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace United in Love and Respect

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April 12

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

Imagine if your family were suddenly thrust into poverty and exiled from your homeland, never to return. When Bahá'u'lláh's family endured these and many other challenges, they supported one another with love and devotion.

Bahá'u'lláh was nearly 18 years old when He married Ásíyih Khánum in Tíhrán, Iran, in 1835. They both came from wealthy families and could have chosen a life of ease. Instead, they spent their time helping those in need. Bahá'u'lláh was called "Father of the Poor" and Ásíyih Khánum "Mother of Consolation."

Bahá'u'lláh honored Ásíyih Khánum with the title "Navváb," meaning "Highness" or "Grace." Women were usually not treated as equals in Persian society, but their relationship was one of mutual respect and love. They had three children. Their eldest son, 'Abbás Effendi, later took the name 'Abdu'l-Bahá, or "Servant of Bahá." They also had a daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, and a younger son, Mírzá Mihdí.

The family's life changed dramatically in 1852, when Bahá'u'lláh was unjustly imprisoned because of His faith. Their home was ransacked, and most of their possessions were taken. Navváb and her children, who were all under nine, struggled to survive while they worried desperately about Bahá'u'lláh's safety. At one point, Navváb could only offer her children a handful of dry flour to eat.

After four long months, Bahá'u'lláh was released from prison and exiled to Baghdád, Iraq. This was the beginning of many years of banishment, imprisonment, and terrible



The children of Bahá'u'lláh and Navváb (left to right): Bahíyyih Khánum, Mírzá Mihdí, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. They dedicated their lives to their family and their faith's message of peace.

difficulties for the family. Yet through it all, they remained united and courageous.

Bahá'u'lláh's final exile led the family to 'Akká, Israel, in 1868. There, Mírzá Mihdí, at the age of 22, died tragically after a fall. Because they were prisoners, the family was not allowed to go to the cemetery for his burial.

In 1877, Bahá'u'lláh was finally allowed to move to a home in the countryside. 'Abdu'l-Bahá remained in 'Akká, where he met with officials on his Father's behalf and helped to lead the Bahá'í community. Bahá'u'lláh revealed His holy writings and met with Bahá'ís. Bahá'u'lláh praised His son, whom He called "the Master," saying, "For Us He has become a mighty stronghold, a mighty armour." *

Throughout her life, Bahíyyih Khánum also served her Father and the Bahá'í Faith with kindness, strength, and wisdom.

When Navváb passed away in 1886, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and Bahíyyih Khánum were at her side. Today, Bahá'ís from all over the globe pray at the resting places of Navváb and her three children on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel.

*This is from a Bahá'í's autobiography and may not reflect Bahá'u'lláh's exact words.