

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Changing Enemies to Friends

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 22

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.

If you heard that over 100 people were coming to harm you because of your faith, what would you do?

Bahá'u'lláh faced such threats and persecution throughout His life. When He was 27, He became a follower of the Báb, a Messenger of God who taught that a Promised One would soon appear to unite the world. Trying to stop Bahá'u'lláh's influence as a Bábí leader, government authorities imprisoned Him in 1852. They later exiled Him from Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád, Iraq.

In Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh often met with townspeople in coffee houses and shared the Báb's teachings. He was admired by many, but some influential leaders opposed Him. They tried to turn people against Him by spreading vicious rumors. A religious leader accused Him of trying to destroy the Muslim faith. A government official even plotted to have Him killed.

The Bábís feared for Bahá'u'lláh's life and watched His house at night. But Bahá'u'lláh showed no fear. He continued to go out at all hours. When He met His enemies, He talked and joked with them. A concerned friend suggested that He hide at home, but He wrote, "We have lighted the fire of love . . . We shall not run away . . ."

One day, a Turkish man named Ridá aimed a pistol at Bahá'u'lláh from a distance. But when Bahá'u'lláh appeared, Ridá became so confused that he dropped his gun and froze. Bahá'u'lláh said to His brother, who was with Him, "Pick up his pistol and give it to him, and show him the way to his



Bahá'u'lláh lived in this house during much of His time in Baghdád. It's a sacred place to Bahá'ís. It was confiscated in the 1900s and illegally destroyed in 2013.

house; he seems to have lost his way."

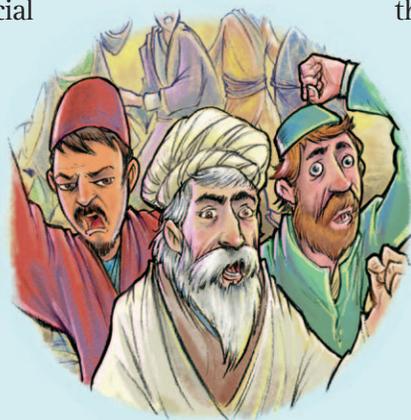
A friend warned Bahá'u'lláh that a group of more than 100 was planning an assault on His house. The Bábís gathered to defend Him, but Bahá'u'lláh said there was no need for action.

When the fierce mob arrived, rather than hide or flee, Bahá'u'lláh invited them into His home! "They are our guests," He said.

He had rosewater sherbet and tea served to them. They arrived as enemies, but after experiencing Bahá'u'lláh's kindness, they left as friends. The prejudiced authorities, however, continued to plot against Bahá'u'lláh and push for Him to leave Baghdád. In 1863,

He was invited by the Turkish government to go to Constantinople (now Istanbul), and He agreed.

Before He left, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Promised One that the Báb had foretold. More adversaries challenged Him throughout His life, but He continued to face them all with love and courage.



An angry mob went to Bahá'u'lláh's house.