

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

BADÍ': "PRIDE OF THE MARTYRS"

Growing up in Persia (now Iran), Áqá Buzurg was a wild, rebellious youth. His unruly behavior troubled his family. Although his father was a follower of Bahá'u'lláh, Áqá Buzurg was not interested in his father's faith.

Then one day, a Bahá'í named Nabil-i-A'zam visited Áqá Buzurg's home. He took the young man aside, read Bahá'u'lláh's words to him, and talked about Bahá'u'lláh's sufferings. As Áqá Buzurg heard the writings of Bahá'u'lláh, something changed inside the boy's heart. He began to weep. From that day on, he was devoted to Bahá'u'lláh.

A PRICELESS HONOR

Áqá Buzurg was about 17 in 1869, when he set out for 'Akká, Israel, where Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned. The authorities hoped to stop the Bahá'í Faith by sending Bahá'u'lláh to the prison city. In Bahá'u'lláh's presence, Áqá Buzurg was transformed and filled with joy. Bahá'u'lláh gave him the name Badí', which means "Wonderful." Bahá'u'lláh later wrote that "the spirit of might and power was breathed" into Badí'.

Bahá'u'lláh wrote letters to many of the world's leaders, sharing His teachings and urging them to establish peace. He told



Badí' at age 15. He was rebellious as a youth, but was later transformed.



Above: For four months, Badí' traveled on foot to deliver a letter from Bahá'u'lláh to the Sháh of Persia. **Left:** Badí' was a steadfast and devoted Bahá'í who was martyred for his faith.

Badí' that He wrote a letter for the Sháh of Persia. Badí' begged for the honor of delivering it, though he knew it was a very dangerous mission. The sháh was a ruthless leader, and many people feared him. Bahá'u'lláh agreed to Badí's request.

GREATEST SACRIFICE

Badí' received the letter for the sháh secretly. He was thrilled to also receive his own letter from Bahá'u'lláh. Then Badí' walked 900 miles to Tihrán, Persia, to see the sháh. Badí' had to be cautious, but a Bahá'í who met him on the way described him as "a very happy person, smiling, patient, thankful, gentle, and humble."

Badí' found out where the sháh was staying, and waited nearby. For three days and nights, he fasted and prayed. On the fourth day, he was taken to see the sháh. Badí' courageously delivered Bahá'u'lláh's message. He was immediately arrested. The officials tortured him, trying to get Badí' to reveal the names of other Bahá'ís. But Badí' remained steadfast, and even joyful. Finally, after three days, he was executed.

After Badí's martyrdom, Bahá'u'lláh wrote about his heroic spirit. In almost every Tablet He revealed over three years, He praised Badí' for his noble sacrifice. Bahá'u'lláh gave him the title of "Pride of the Martyrs."