Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace
Majestic Presence

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 Tihrán, Iran

1844
Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852
Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán

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

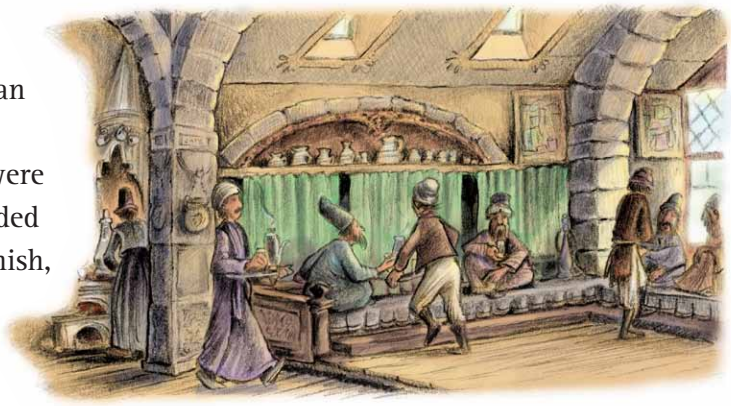
1863–1868
Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

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.

Imagine how it would feel to meet a Messenger of God in person. A Persian prince who knew Bahá'u'lláh said, "I know not how to explain it . . . were all the sorrows of the world to be crowded into my heart they would, I feel, all vanish, when in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh. It is as if I had entered Paradise itself."



In Bahá'u'lláh's time, many people went to coffeehouses to talk about religion and philosophy. He visited these coffeehouses often, and crowds gathered to see Him.

Though He suffered imprisonment and banishment, Bahá'u'lláh's kindness, generosity, and wisdom brought joy to people's hearts everywhere He went. Still, authorities who felt threatened by Bahá'u'lláh exiled Him from Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád, Iraq, in 1853. Bahá'u'lláh was a follower of an earlier Messenger of God known as the Báb, Who taught that another Messenger promised by all religions would soon appear. The authorities mistakenly thought the Báb's teachings went against Islam, and they persecuted thousands of His followers, called Bábís.

Bahá'u'lláh had a strong effect on the people of Baghdád. Religious leaders, dignitaries, and ordinary citizens visited Him and asked for His advice. Bahá'u'lláh frequently went to coffeehouses, and whichever coffeehouse He chose would become crowded with people eager to see Him.



He showered love on many, giving gifts to the disabled, orphans, and others in need. When He went out, a poor, elderly woman would often wait for Him on the road. Bahá'u'lláh kindly asked about her health and gave her money. When she wanted to kiss His cheeks, He would bend down so she could do so. Later, when He left Baghdád, He arranged for an allowance to help her for the rest of her life.

Not everyone welcomed Bahá'u'lláh and the other Bábís. Some prejudiced people insulted and threatened them. At times, some Bábís got into conflicts with them.

Once, some merchants even threatened to kill Bahá'u'lláh and the Bábís. But Bahá'u'lláh calmly went to the coffeehouse as usual. He told a companion, "We have been threatened with death. We have no fear, We are ready for them." He spoke with such authority that those who heard Him were amazed, and the merchants did not dare to hurt Him.

Another time, more than 100 hostile men came to Bahá'u'lláh's house. Bahá'u'lláh warmly invited them in, saying, "They are our guests." He had sherbet and tea served to them. In Bahá'u'lláh's majestic presence, the men's hearts changed, and they left as friends.

Some people recognized Bahá'u'lláh's spiritual power and felt He was the Messenger of God promised by the Báb. In time, Bahá'u'lláh would reveal that He was, indeed, the Promised One of all religions. The authorities continued to exile Him farther and farther from Persia, but they were unable to stop His profound effect on people's hearts and souls.

The statements above from Bahá'u'lláh are not authenticated quotations, but are His reported words from *Bahá'u'lláh: The King of Glory*, by H. M. Balyuzi.

Cups by Dianka Pyzhova