

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.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Spiritual Riches

As the son of a Persian nobleman, Bahá'u'lláh was born into a life of wealth. But He wasn't attached to material things.

After marrying, He and His wife, Ásíyih Khánum, shared their riches with those in need. Bahá'u'lláh became known as "Father of the Poor."

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested by officials who were prejudiced against His faith. They put Him in a terrible dungeon called the "Black Pit" for four long months. He and His family were stripped of their wealth and then banished from their homeland. For about 40 years, Bahá'u'lláh lived as a prisoner and an exile, with few comforts.

Yet He was rich with admirers. Sometimes they sent Him gifts, such as carpets or clothing. He graciously accepted such gifts, but then often gave them to the poor.

During His exile in Adrianople (now Edirne, Turkey), a Bahá'í named Muhammad-Báqir presented Bahá'u'lláh with a small silk rug. Bahá'u'lláh accepted the gift, wrote a Tablet, and thanked him. Then He told Muhammad-Báqir that He was returning the rug as a favor to him. He said He actually preferred to sit on the ground.

Though He experienced both wealth and poverty, Bahá'u'lláh was detached from both. Instead, He focused on spiritual riches, helping people live noble lives as one human family.



Carpet weaving is an art form in many cultures, including in Iran. Some carpets are used for prayer. Imagine you're giving a beautiful carpet as a gift. Create your own design with unique patterns and colors.

