

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Champion of Oneness

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.

Throughout His life, Bahá'u'lláh endured prejudice and persecution. Still, He shared His vision for peace and unity on Earth.

As a young man in Tíhrán, Persia (now Iran), Bahá'u'lláh was a follower of the Báb, a Messenger of God who taught that another Messenger would appear to bring an age of peace. Bahá'u'lláh shared the Báb's message with others, and many became Bábís.

Thousands embraced the Bábí Faith across the land. But Muslim clergy and authorities felt threatened by the new faith. Many Bábís were fiercely attacked.

In northern Iran, 313 Bábís were forced to defend themselves from government soldiers at the shrine of Shaykh Tabarsí. Bahá'u'lláh and some companions attempted to bring supplies to the Bábís there in December 1848. The group was arrested by guards. When Bahá'u'lláh asked to be punished in place of those with Him, He was tortured by having the soles of His feet beaten with a rod.

Over eight months, the Bábís survived attacks by 12,000 soldiers. Finally, the army deviously proposed a truce. When the Bábís trustingly left the shrine, they were massacred.

The Báb Himself was martyred by a firing squad in Shíráz in 1850. In spite of danger, Bahá'u'lláh and others continued to support the Bábí Faith and its followers in both Iran and Iraq.

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was chained to other Bábís and imprisoned in a foul dungeon in Tíhrán known as the "Black Pit." Each day, a Bábí was taken out and executed. In the icy darkness and filth,



At this mosque in Amul, Iran, Bahá'u'lláh was arrested and beaten in 1848 for being a follower of the Báb.

Bahá'u'lláh taught others a prayer that they repeated through the night. One row would chant, "God is sufficient unto me; He verily is the All-sufficing!" The facing row would answer, "In Him let the trusting trust."

One night in a dream, Bahá'u'lláh heard these words: "Verily, We shall render Thee victorious by Thyself and by Thy Pen. Grieve Thou not for what hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid, for Thou art in safety." After four long months, He was released, but He and His family were exiled from Iran to Baghdád, Iraq.

Bahá'u'lláh inspired the Bábí community in Baghdád and revealed sacred writings. In 1863, He announced the joyous news that He was the Messenger of God promised by the Báb. His followers became known as Bahá'ís.

Bahá'u'lláh and His family were banished to Turkey, then sent to the prison-city of 'Akká, in Israel. Though He faced injustice, Bahá'u'lláh focused on helping the world and promoting harmony.

“Dedicate the precious days of your lives to the betterment of the world . . .” — Bahá’u’lláh

He wrote to kings and leaders, advising them to end war and treat people fairly. Toward the end of His life, Bahá’u’lláh met a British scholar, Edward G. Browne, the only Westerner known to have visited Him. Bahá’u’lláh told him, “These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come . . .”



The Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh, located near ‘Akká, Israel, is considered the holiest spot on Earth to Bahá’ís.

Use the key to decode Bahá’u’lláh’s words about unity.

“ e re t e ruit o one tree,
 n t e e e o one br nc .
 e e one it not er it
 t e ut o t o e n r on . . . ”

