

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

The Tablet of Ahmad

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

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.

What if a Messenger of God wrote a special prayer for you? That happened to a Bahá'í named Ahmad.

As a teen, Ahmad could often be found in his room, praying. He was a devout Muslim, and he asked God to guide him to the new Messenger of God that his faith foretold. At age 20, he left his home in Yazd, Persia (now Iran), to search for the Promised One.

Ahmad lived simply and spent much of his time in prayer and meditation. He traveled to India, but did not find the One he was seeking. Eventually, he returned to Persia and worked as a weaver in Káshán.

One day, Ahmad heard of the Báb, which means "the Gate" in Arabic. The Báb claimed to be the Promised One, and said another Messenger of God would appear soon after Him. Ahmad was determined to investigate. He walked about 646 miles (1,040 km) to meet a follower of the Báb. Soon Ahmad embraced the Bábí Faith, then returned to Káshán.

The Persian authorities, feeling threatened by the Báb's fast-growing faith, violently persecuted the Bábís. In 1850, the Báb was martyred by a firing squad.

Ahmad's home was attacked, the windows and doors broken, and his belongings stolen. He hid for 40 days in a ventilation shaft, an outlet for hot air to help keep the home cool. Friends brought him food and water in secret.

To escape the danger in Káshán, Ahmad moved to Baghdád, Iraq. There he met Bahá'u'lláh, a prominent Bábí



Ahmad was born into a wealthy family in the city of Yazd, Persia, where he lived during his early years, until he felt inspired to leave home on his spiritual quest.

leader. Ahmad stayed in Baghdád for six years. "During this period," he said, "my soul was bountifully nourished from His glorious presence and I had the great honor to live in the outer apartment of His blessed house . . . I was basking in the sunshine of Bahá'u'lláh's presence . . ."

Because of His growing influence, Bahá'u'lláh was banished in 1863 to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Before He left, He announced that He was the Messenger of God that the Báb had foretold. After just four months, He was sent farther away, to Adrianople (now Edirne, Turkey).

Ahmad couldn't bear to be so far away from Bahá'u'lláh, so he also headed to Adrianople. But when Ahmad stopped in Constantinople, he received a tablet from Bahá'u'lláh. Upon reading it, Ahmad knew what Bahá'u'lláh wanted him to do. Rather than continue to Adrianople, he returned to Persia to share Bahá'u'lláh's teachings. He traveled and taught around the country, carrying the tablet with him at all times and chanting it frequently.

“For verily, God hath ordained for the one who chants it, the reward of a hundred martyrs and a service in both worlds.” —Bahá’u’lláh

The Bahá’í writings describe the Tablet of Ahmad as a prayer of “special potency and significance.” It urges us to be obedient to God and to remain steadfast, even in the face of adversity. Bahá’u’lláh promises, “Should one who is in affliction or grief read this Tablet with absolute sincerity, God will dispel his sadness, solve his difficulties and remove his afflictions.”

The strength and detachment Ahmad received from this tablet helped him through his long life. He lived to be about 100, as a devoted servant of the Bahá’í Faith.



Bahá’u’lláh revealed the Tablet of Ahmad during His exile to Adrianople, where He lived in this residence, among others, for a time.

Search for 19 words found in the Tablet of Ahmad.

Look up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

BEAUTY	D	U	C	H	Q	S	M	F	L	Z	H	E	H	M	E
BOUNTIES	Y	T	U	A	E	B	U	U	L	S	M	Q	E	T	Z
COMPASSIONATE	Y	T	E	K	P	P	F	O	E	A	B	L	A	A	Q
DIVINE	P	O	L	X	P	E	R	R	R	C	M	N	R	U	G
FLAME	S	A	P	D	T	E	V	O	J	E	O	E	T	I	W
GENEROUS	S	Z	R	A	N	I	G	H	T	I	N	G	A	L	E
GLORIOUS	I	W	R	A	C	M	U	U	S	E	S	E	T	Y	K
GRATEFUL	N	G	L	E	D	T	X	S	S	T	C	V	G	P	S
HEART	C	E	X	E	E	I	A	B	E	V	Z	T	H	E	U
MERCIFUL	E	I	T	L	O	P	S	A	T	L	B	V	O	E	O
NIGHTINGALE	R	N	B	L	M	W	D	E	F	A	B	T	T	R	I
PARADISE	I	A	I	O	D	F	M	E	R	C	I	F	U	L	R
PEERLESS	T	W	C	V	A	S	E	I	T	N	U	O	B	E	O
PROTECTOR	Y	D	H	S	I	W	I	S	D	O	M	W	C	S	L
SERVICE	Q	T	T	W	A	D	F	A	E	X	I	P	Y	S	G
SINCERITY															
STEADFAST															
TABLET															
WISDOM															