

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

An Extraordinary Child

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 (Édirne), 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.

An extraordinary child was born in Tihrán, Persia (now Iran) in 1817. Named Mírzá Husayn-'Alí, He later became known as Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic). His family descended from the Prophets Abraham and Zoroaster, and from ancient Persian kings.

Bahá'u'lláh's father, Mírzá 'Abbás, held a high position in the court of the sháh (king) of Persia. He was honored for his virtuous character and his talent in calligraphy. The sháh so admired him that he gave him the title Buzurg, or "the Great One."

Bahá'u'lláh's mother was Khadíjih Khánum. Little is known about her. She was a widow with three children when she married Mírzá Buzurg. Together they had five children, and their third-born was Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh's mother was so attached to Him that she disliked being apart, even for a moment. She marveled at His calmness. "This child never cries," she said. "He is so unlike other babies that cry and scream and are forever restless . . ."

When Bahá'u'lláh was a child, Mírzá Buzurg dreamed that his son was swimming in a vast ocean. Bahá'u'lláh's body radiated light, and His black hair flowed above the waves in all directions. As He swam, schools of fish attached themselves to the strands of His hair, but Bahá'u'lláh was unharmed.

Mírzá Buzurg consulted a wise man who interpreted dreams. The man said that the ocean symbolized the world. "Single-handed and alone, your son will achieve supreme ascendancy over it," he said. The fish represented the people



Tákur, in the north of Iran, where the family of Bahá'u'lláh had a summer home.

who would gather around Him, but "this tumult will never harm His person, nor will His loneliness upon the sea of life endanger His safety."

Mírzá Buzurg grew even more devoted to his son and hopeful about His future.

Bahá'u'lláh loved being outdoors and riding horses. He spent summers at His family's luxurious home in the mountain village of Tákur. In Tihrán, they lived in a group of seven interconnected mansions with beautiful furnishings and private baths.

Bahá'u'lláh was tutored at home in the Qur'án, calligraphy, and poetry, as was customary for children of wealth and nobility. He impressed others with His wisdom and insight. By about age 13, Bahá'u'lláh would talk with religious scholars in large gatherings, and they would listen carefully as He explained spiritual ideas.

"Such intelligence! And such perception! He is as a flame of fire!" Mírzá Buzurg said. "Even at this young age He surpasses mature men."

“From childhood He was extremely kind and generous. He was a great lover of outdoor life, most of His time being spent in the garden or the fields. He had an extraordinary power of attraction, which was felt by all.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When Bahá’u’lláh was about 22, Mirzá Buzurg passed away. Bahá’u’lláh was offered a government position, but He declined. When the Prime Minister heard of His refusal, he said, “Leave him to himself. Such a position is unworthy of him.”

Bahá’u’lláh’s mission went far beyond worldly affairs. In 1863, He announced His station as a Messenger of God. Today His followers are found in almost every country. In 2017, Bahá’ís around the globe joyfully celebrate the 200th anniversary of His birth, which the Bahá’í writings say represents “the single greatest worldwide opportunity there has ever been for connecting hearts to Bahá’u’lláh.”



The house of Bahá’u’lláh in Tákur, in the province of Mázindarán. It was destroyed by the government in 1981.

Find 19 words related to the story. Look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

CALLIGRAPHY	C	E	V	W	T	Y	G	Y	D	S	R	D	H	D	X
CHARACTER	C	X	U	A	L	H	B	E	X	M	O	D	S	I	W
CHILDHOOD	S	T	R	K	L	P	G	X	F	B	Z	Y	U	D	L
DREAM	E	R	L	B	K	A	U	I	R	P	C	I	O	H	I
EXTRAORDINARY	L	A	U	T	I	R	I	P	S	N	N	O	I	K	G
FISH	B	O	M	X	N	G	Y	Y	S	N	H	R	G	Y	C
GENEROSITY	O	R	R	O	D	I	V	Q	T	D	I	E	I	A	H
HUMANITY	N	D	A	U	N	L	L	P	L	I	N	T	L	P	T
INSIGHT	M	I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	C	E	W	G
INTELLIGENCE	F	N	D	D	S	A	H	D	R	P	C	A	R	V	U
KINDNESS	V	A	G	O	S	C	Z	O	O	O	C	R	M	S	E
NOBLE	W	R	M	O	V	O	S	E	W	E	I	A	A	U	V
POETRY	G	Y	X	R	W	I	T	M	F	I	S	H	E	S	H
RELIGIOUS	K	E	Q	S	T	R	I	U	M	P	H	C	R	H	H
SPIRITUAL	F	D	A	Y	Y	E	L	K	D	C	S	P	D	I	Q
TRIUMPH															
WISDOM															