

The Life of the Báb

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1819 October 20

Birth of the Báb in Shiráz, Iran

1842 August

Marries Khadíjih Bagum

1843

Birth of their son, Ahmad, who soon dies

1844 May 23

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bábí Faith

1844 December

Announces His station while on pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

1847 July

Imprisonment in the fortress of Máh-Kú (The Open Mountain)

1848 April 10

Transfer to the fortress of Chihriq (The Grievous Mountain)

1848 July

Declares His mission to leaders in Tabriz, Iran, and is punished with the bastinado

1850 July 9

The Báb is martyred in Tabriz, Iran.

The cruel governor, Husayn Khán, wanted the Báb put in chains. He was angered by the Báb's declaration that He was the Promised One of Islam. Guards set out on horses to capture the Báb and bring Him from Búshihir to Shiráz, Persia (now Iran). But before the guards reached Him, the Báb rode out to greet them, saying, "Here am I; do with Me as you please."

The commander of the guards admired the Báb and didn't want to arrest Him. He tried to ride past Him, but the Báb insisted that he follow his orders. Astonished, the commander dismounted his horse to kiss the Báb's stirrups and urge Him to escape. The Báb stayed firm. He continued to Shiráz with the guards following behind.

The Báb was placed under house arrest. He wasn't allowed visitors, but people couldn't stay away. Even the sháh sent his advisor, Vahíd, to meet the Báb and judge the truth of His claims.

In their meetings, the Báb answered complex spiritual questions while Vahíd listened in wonder. On his third visit, Vahíd was so overcome by the Báb that he couldn't stand up anymore. The Báb sat beside him, held his hand, and revealed verses that Vahíd had hoped to hear. He became a devoted Bábí.

The governor's jealousy grew. He told the chief of police to sneak into the home where the Báb was staying and arrest Him. He intended to kill the Báb that very night.

As the chief of police arrested the Báb, a strange commotion caught his attention. A line of mourners passed,



Historical engraving of Búshihir, a city on the Persian Gulf, where the Báb lived after returning from His pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia.

weeping and carrying coffins. Panic spread as people ran through the streets, trying to escape a deadly disease sweeping through the city.

Unsure what to do with his prisoner, the chief brought the Báb to his home, where they found his son on the brink of death from the disease. Desperate, he threw himself at the Báb's feet, begged forgiveness, and asked Him to save his son.

The Báb washed His face for prayers and sent that same water to the child. Amazingly, after drinking it, the boy began to recover. The chief wrote to the governor, asking him to stop the attacks on the Báb.

The governor released the Báb, but insisted that He leave Shiráz immediately. In the summer of 1846, the Báb left His wife and mother in His uncle's care, assuring them of "God's all-encompassing love and protection."

Despite many challenges, the Báb continued sharing His message of unity, warming hearts and preparing people for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh.