

Herald of Peace:

The Báb's Life and Mission

October 20, 1819

The Birth of the Báb

Born in Shiráz, Persia (now Iran), the Báb ("the Gate") was named Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad. "Siyyid" is a title given to descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.



Engraving of Shiráz from the 19th century

1834

An Honest Merchant

At 15, the Báb began working as a merchant with His uncles. He was well respected for His honesty and attention to detail.

October 1842

The Báb's Marriage

The Báb married His friend, Khadíjih Bagum. They had one son, Ahmad, who died soon after his birth.

1843

A Glimpse of a Revelation

The Báb said that one night, in a dream, "the Spirit of God had permeated and taken possession of My soul . . . and the mysteries of His Revelation were unfolded before My eyes . . ."

May 23, 1844

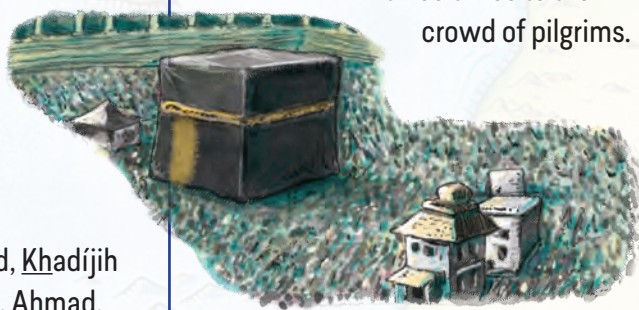
Declaration of the Báb in Shiráz, Persia

Mullá Husayn traveled across Persia seeking the Promised One of Islam. Two hours and 11 minutes after sunset on May 22, the Báb announced His mission to Mullá Husayn. He said, "I am the Báb, the Gate of God . . ."

December 1844

Public Announcement in Mecca, Arabia

While on pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, the holiest shrine of Islam, the Báb announced His station three times to the crowd of pilgrims.



The Kaaba in Mecca

June 1845

The Báb's First Arrest

The Báb's claim that He was the Promised One of Islam brought joy to those who believed Him, but angered and confused others. The governor of Shiráz ordered His arrest.

July 1847–April 1848

Imprisonment in Máh-Kú, Persia



Máh-Kú, Persia

In a dark castle He called "the Open Mountain," the Báb began to reveal His holy book, the Bayán.

April 10, 1848

Transfer to the Fortress of Chihriq, Persia

His jailors and the people in Máh-Kú grew to love the Báb. Officials sent Him to a more remote prison that He named "the Grievous Mountain." Here too, He gained admiration.



Chihriq, Persia

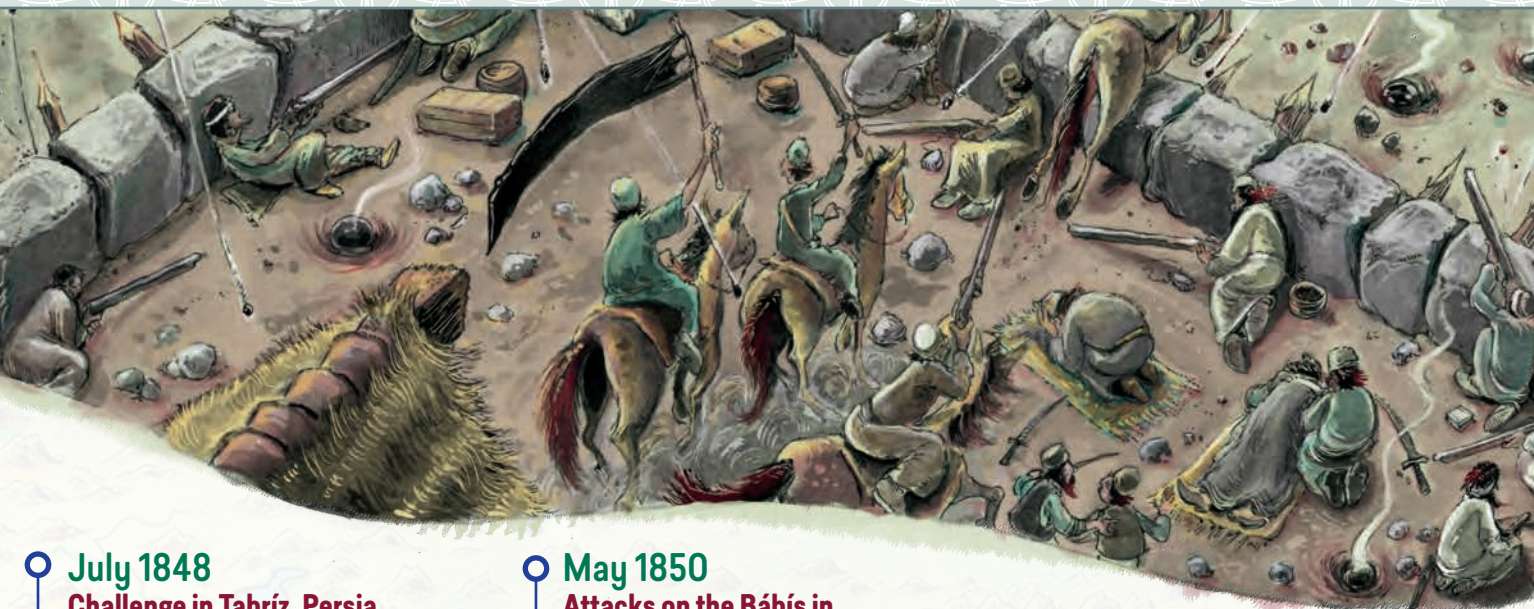
June 26 – July 17, 1848

Conference of Badasht, Persia

Bahá'u'lláh called a meeting of the Báb's followers. In the village of Badasht, 81 Bábís learned about the new laws and teachings of the Báb.

1819–1843

1844–1848



July 1848

Challenge in Tabriz, Persia

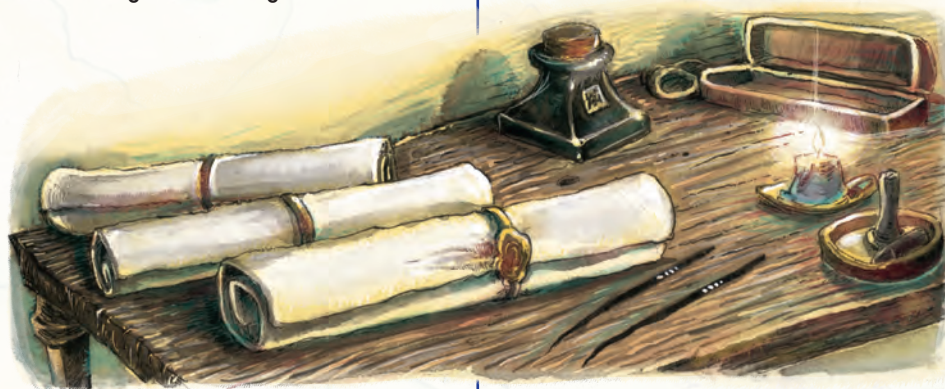
At a trial, the Báb announced that He was the Promised One of Islam. The authorities punished the Báb by beating the soles of His feet 11 times. Then He was taken back to Chihriq.

October 1848–May 1849

Battle of Fort Tabarsí

At a fort they had built around the shrine of Shaykh Tabarsí, 313 Bábís defended themselves against an army of about 12,000.

After seven months, the Bábís were tricked into surrendering, and most were killed. When the Báb learned of this, He was described as “crushed with grief” and “tears rained continually from His eyes . . .”



May 1850

Attacks on the Bábís in Zanján and Nayriz, Persia

The Bábís were forced to defend themselves against armies and angry mobs. They showed great courage, but were outnumbered. Over the years, about 20,000 Bábís were martyred throughout Persia.

June 1850

A Precious Gift

The Báb sent His rings, seals, writings, and pen case as gifts to Bahá'u'lláh. On a scroll of fine blue paper, the Báb had written 360 versions of the word “Bahá” in exquisite calligraphy, in the form of a star. Bábís who saw the scroll marveled at its outstanding artistry.

July 9, 1850

The Martyrdom of the Báb

In Tabriz, 750 soldiers fired at the Báb and one of His faithful followers, Anís. When the smoke cleared, they were found unharmed. At noon, the second attempt to kill the Báb and His companion succeeded. A dust storm arose, blocking the sun until that night.



Military barracks in Tabriz, where the Báb was martyred

1863

The Báb's Mission Is Fulfilled

The Báb had told His followers to seek “Him Whom God shall make manifest,” the next Messenger of God. In April 1863, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the One that the Báb had foretold.

1848–1849

1850–1863