

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 Shíráz, 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.

By 1850, the community following the Báb's peaceful teachings had grown throughout Persia (now Iran). Thousands became Bábís, despite brutal persecution. Government officials were convinced that the only way to stop His Faith was to end the Báb's life.

In His remote prison, the Báb put His writings, pen case, seals, and rings in a box, along with a blue scroll of His holy verses. He sent these to Bahá'u'lláh.

The Báb and His secretary, Siyyid Husayn, were taken to the city of Tabriz. The streets surged with commotion as they were led to the prison. A young Bábí named Anís pushed through the crowd. He flung himself at the Báb's feet and begged to be able to stay with Him. Anís was immediately arrested.

On July 9, guards burst into the Báb's cell, interrupting His conversation with Siyyid Husayn. The Báb said, "Not until I have said to him all those things that I wish to say can any earthly power silence Me." Ignoring His words, the guards brought the Báb and Anís to face the firing squad.

The army colonel, Sam Khan, didn't want to kill an innocent man. He asked the Báb to free him from this duty. The Báb assured him that if his intentions were sincere, God would help him.

About 10,000 people watched as the Báb and Anís were suspended by ropes that were nailed to a pillar. When Sam Khan gave the order, 750 soldiers fired. The smoke from their rifles was so thick, it blocked the sun.



News of the stunning events surrounding the Báb's martyrdom in this barracks square in Tabriz spread far and wide, to Europe and beyond.

When the air cleared, the crowd found that the Báb was nowhere in sight! Anís stood unharmed. Only their ropes had been shredded by the bullets.

After searching, guards found the Báb in His cell with Siyyid Husayn. He calmly said, "I have finished My conversation . . . Now you may proceed to fulfill your intention." Sam Khan was so astonished, he refused to harm the Báb and ordered his men to leave.

New soldiers tied the Báb and Anís again, then opened fire. This time, the bodies of the Báb and Anís were destroyed, though their faces were barely touched. The moment the shots were fired, a violent dust storm engulfed the city until nightfall.

When news of the Báb's martyrdom reached Bahá'u'lláh, He said, "The flame that has been kindled will, by this very act, blaze forth more fiercely than ever."

Thirteen years later, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb. Today, His teachings of peace, unity, and hope continue to inspire millions of people around the world.