

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 Chihríq (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.

Hájí Mírzá Aqásí was frustrated. No matter what he tried, he couldn't stop the Bábí Faith from growing. As prime minister—one of the most powerful men in Persia (now Iran)—he was terrified of losing power if the Báb's teachings continued to spread. He had convinced the sháh (king) to imprison the Báb in the remote castle of Máh-Kú in 1847. But the warden, the jailers, and the villagers had grown to love Him.

The Báb was moved to a prison in Chihríq, an even more distant and hostile region. The jailer had strict instructions to keep the Báb in isolation. But this plan quickly backfired. When the jailer met the Báb, his heart was transformed by the Báb's radiant spirit. Filled with love, he refused to keep anyone away.

Soon visitors flocked to His prison. More people, including respected leaders, became Bábís. Furious over another failure to suppress the Báb's influence, the prime minister sent Him to Tabriz.

The people of Tabriz eagerly anticipated the Báb's arrival. City officials kept Him outside the city gates, hoping to contain the excitement. But the fervor rapidly spread through the city.

The prime minister ordered the religious leaders of Tabriz to question the Báb and humiliate Him. On the day of the meeting, curious onlookers swarmed the entrance of the hall. Then the crowd parted and a deep silence fell as the Báb entered, radiating power and majesty. He confidently took an empty seat reserved for the prince.



The people of Chihríq were so transformed by the Báb's presence that every morning, many turned toward the prison and asked for His blessing from afar.

No one dared to speak.

Finally, an official asked the Báb who He claimed to be. The Báb announced, "I am, I am, I am, the promised One! I am the One whose name you have for a thousand years invoked, at whose mention you have risen, whose advent you have longed to witness, and the hour of whose Revelation you have prayed God to hasten."

An awestruck silence fell. They asked more questions, and the Báb answered with dignity. Then He arose and, without asking for permission, departed.

Unable to dishonor the Báb as they had planned, the officials decided to punish Him. The Báb's feet were severely beaten 11 times with a rod. Then He was sent back to Chihríq.

News of the Báb's declaration that He was a Messenger of God spread like wildfire throughout Persia, inspiring His followers with courage and zeal. Though Bábís faced intense persecution, the Bábí Faith continued to grow and to transform people's hearts. It would soon give birth to the long-awaited mission of Bahá'u'lláh.