

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.

When the Báb was martyred in Tabriz, Persia (now Iran) in 1850, His remains were taken to a moat outside the city gates. Forty guards took turns keeping watch over them. The next night, Bábís carried out a daring mission and rescued the remains. They wrapped them in a cloak, placed them in a wooden casket, and hid them in a silk factory until they could be moved to a safer place.

For 60 years, the wooden casket was hidden in secret locations. Protecting it was a sacred task. To keep it safe, only a few people ever knew where it was. Sometimes it was buried inside Muslim shrines, and at other times it was hidden in people's homes. Bahá'u'lláh guided the process at every step.

After Bahá'u'lláh passed away, His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, became the leader of the Bahá'í community. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had the Báb's remains secretly moved to Israel. They were hidden for 10 years while a simple stone shrine was built on Mt. Carmel in Haifa.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "Every stone of that building, every stone of the road leading to it, I have with infinite tears and at tremendous cost, raised and placed in position."

Finally, in 1909, the Báb was laid to rest. 'Abdu'l-Bahá placed the wooden casket holding the sacred remains in a marble coffin sent by Bahá'ís from what is now Myanmar. Overcome with emotion, he threw off his turban



The Shrine of the Báb is "a monument to the triumph of love over hate," says the Universal House of Justice, the global governing body of the Bahá'í Faith.

and cloak. With his silver hair flowing freely around him, 'Abdu'l-Bahá bent his forehead to the wooden casket and wept.

Years later, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson, Shoghi Effendi, developed the gardens and shrine. He worked with Canadian architect Sutherland Maxwell to build the shrine's magnificent outer structure.* It was completed in 1953, and Shoghi Effendi called it the "QUEEN OF CARMEL ENTHRONED" on "GOD'S MOUNTAIN . . ."



The Shrine of the Báb surrounds this simple structure.

With its white marble walls, emerald green details, and golden dome, the Shrine of the Báb shines radiantly on the slope of Mt. Carmel. When Bahá'u'lláh chose the shrine's location, it was a

rugged mountainside with few visitors. It took patience, perseverance, and collaboration to transform it into a beautiful pilgrimage site.

In 2008, the Shrine of the Báb became a UNESCO World Heritage Site, honoring its value to humanity. Its terraced gardens attract hundreds of thousands of visitors yearly. It is one of the holiest spots on Earth for Bahá'ís.