

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Empowering Women

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

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

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

What if you never had a chance to achieve your goals? You couldn't go to school, travel, or even show your face in public. That was life for many women in Persia (now Iran) in the 1800s. They were treated as men's property and deprived of human rights.

Bahá'u'lláh stood up to these injustices. He said, "Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God." The Bahá'í Faith is the only religion in recorded history that holds the equality of women and men as a central teaching. Bahá'ís believe gender equality is *essential* in order for humanity to live in peace.

At a time when it was rare for women to be able to read and write, Bahá'u'lláh said parents should educate daughters and sons in the same subjects. In His sacred writings, He "lifted distinctions" between men and women and "conferred upon all a station and rank of the same plane." This was a unique and groundbreaking statement for His time.

To Bahá'u'lláh's wife, Ásiyih Khánum, He gave the honored titles Navváb, meaning "Highness," and the "Most Exalted Leaf." He helped her with the cooking, a task typically done by women. He was saddened by the hardships she faced during their exiles. When she passed away, He revealed a prayer in her honor, saying, "Woe betide him that denieth thy exalted station . . ."

When their daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, was in her teens, Bahá'u'lláh entrusted her with "missions that no girl of her age could, or would be willing to, perform." She eagerly achieved them with "spontaneous joy." Bahá'u'lláh called



Bahá'u'lláh entrusted His daughter Bahíyyih Khánum with important work for the Faith and gave her a station "such as none other woman hath surpassed."

her the "Greatest Holy Leaf" and told her, "We have elevated thee to the rank of one of the most distinguished among thy sex, and granted thee . . . a station such as none other woman hath surpassed."

Bahá'u'lláh encouraged His female followers and revealed tablets for them. In Baghdád, He showed extreme kindness to an elderly woman that He often met on His route to the coffee house. He asked about her health, and when she wanted to kiss His cheeks, He would bend down so she could do so. He often said, "Because I love this old woman so much, she also loves Me." When He left Baghdád, He arranged for her to have financial support for the rest of her life.

“Unto every father hath been enjoined the instruction of his son and daughter in the art of reading and writing and in all that hath been laid down in the Holy Tablet.” —Bahá’u’lláh

After Bahá’u’lláh’s passing, His eldest son, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, continued to promote justice for women. He spoke in favor of their voting rights and gave them significant roles in the Faith. He explained that if a family doesn’t have enough money to educate both a girl and a boy, the girl’s education must be the priority, because she is a potential mother. She will share her knowledge with her children and uplift society.

Today, Bahá’ís and Bahá’í-inspired groups around the globe stand at the forefront of efforts to establish justice for all women and share the importance of true equality worldwide.



Resting place of the Greatest Holy Leaf, Bahíyyih Khánúm, the daughter of Bahá’u’lláh, in the Monument Gardens at the Bahá’í World Center in Haifa, Israel.

Find words related to the story. Look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

	U	A	X	M	V	A	H	O	N	O	R	W	M	B	R	
Brave	E	E	U	V	R	I	O	E	A	S	J	E	I	G	E	Honor
Education	C	Q	X	V	S	N	U	T	R	P	L	C	L	N	S	Justice
Encourage	J	W	K	T	I	Y	D	V	F	O	A	I	U	E	P	Kindness
Equality	Z	L	O	W	P	F	Q	W	Q	L	I	T	O	V	E	Loftiness
Exalted	T	R	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	N	S	T	A	C	Love
Goals	Y	S	G	R	A	C	E	E	V	O	H	U	M	R	T	Peace
Grace	T	S	A	E	E	F	F	X	I	C	L	J	H	B	N	Prejudice
Heroism	L	E	R	R	V	K	Q	T	D	E	T	L	A	X	E	Respect
History	M	N	U	L	T	O	A	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	C	Support
	B	I	O	V	I	C	L	S	S	E	N	D	N	I	K	
	I	T	C	S	U	A	K	X	B	C	C	I	P	W	R	
	U	F	N	D	O	T	W	U	U	Z	C	A	L	F	Q	
	X	O	E	G	A	R	A	O	C	T	I	F	E	R	M	
	M	L	G	Y	Y	E	C	I	D	U	J	E	R	P	I	