

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Standing Up for Justice

## A Brief Timeline

### The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

#### 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 22

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.

Even from His early years, Bahá'u'lláh stood up for what was right.

He grew up in Persia (now Iran), in the early 1800s, at a time when injustice was commonplace. For example, when the king needed money, he would send

tax collectors to people's houses and make them pay high taxes, beyond what was normal or fair.

When Bahá'u'lláh was young, one of the king's tax collectors came to His house. Although His father, Mírzá Buzurg, was a minister in the government, the tax collector rudely demanded that he pay a large amount of money. Mírzá Buzurg paid him. But the tax collector returned later and asked for more money. Again, Mírzá Buzurg paid. The tax collector came a third time, and demanded even more. This time, Bahá'u'lláh's father didn't have the money to pay. The tax collector forced his way into the house and began taking furniture for payment.

Bahá'u'lláh decided something had to be done. Though He was only in his teens, He mounted His horse and rode the two days' journey, in the snow, to Tíhrán to see the king. He told the king that His father had paid the tax, and that it was unfair to demand more. He also explained how badly the tax collector had treated His family.

Incredibly, though Bahá'u'lláh was just a youth, the king listened to Him and agreed!



The house of Bahá'u'lláh's family in Tákur, Iran. It was destroyed by the Iranian government in 1981.

The king also decided to dismiss the tax collector from his job.

As He grew up, Bahá'u'lláh dedicated His life to promoting justice and serving others. When Mírzá Buzurg passed away, Bahá'u'lláh was offered his prestigious

government position. He was only 22 years old, and the job could have given Him a life of luxury and ease. But Bahá'u'lláh had no interest in earthly titles or wealth, and He refused the job. Many people were surprised by this unusual choice. However, the prime minister sensed that Bahá'u'lláh had a greater calling. He said, "Leave him to himself. Such a position is unworthy of him. He has some higher aim in view."

The prime minister was right. Bahá'u'lláh focused on assisting people who were poor or in need of help. His home was open to all—no one who came to Him was turned away. Whether someone needed food, shelter, or comfort, Bahá'u'lláh shared whatever He had.

His generosity was so great that His friends worried He would give away everything He owned. Throughout the land, He became known as "Father of the Poor."

Bahá'u'lláh provided a living example of the words He later wrote: "Dedicate the precious days of your lives to the betterment of the world . . ." His actions, as well as His writings, can inspire all people to choose a truly noble path.



Muhammad Sháh was the king of Persia during Bahá'u'lláh's youth.