

Bahá'u'lláh's Early Life

Bahá'u'lláh was a wonderful person. His hair was black and His beard was black. He had happy, laughing eyes, and He made everybody happy because He loved them so much. He rode on horseback and He was brave and strong. He was just like a king.

His wife was called Navváb. Her hair was black and her eyes were dark blue. She was very beautiful. Her heart was so pure and she was so gentle. She loved everybody and she made them happy too.

Bahá'u'lláh and His wife were very rich. They had three children. The eldest was a boy named 'Abbas Effendi, and He was nine years old. When He grew up He was called 'Abdu'l-Bahá The next was a little girl named Bahiyyih Khanum, and she was six. When she grew up she was called the Greatest Holy Leaf. And the smallest was a little boy named Mirzá Mihdí, and he was two. When he grew up he was called the Purest Branch. They all lived in a palace and had many servants. One maid-servant was black. One man-servant was named Isfandiyar. The black maid-servant and Isfandiyar loved Bahá'u'lláh and His family more than all the others did.

The palace was full of beautiful things. There were Persian rugs, and gold ornaments and fine hangings. When Navváb had married Bahá'u'lláh her wedding treasures were so great that it took forty mules to carry them to the palace. Her clothes were so pretty, even the buttons were of gold set with precious stones. The children wore beautiful clothes too. In those days all the men in Persia wore a special sort of coat, it was called an 'aba, and Bahá'u'lláh wore an 'aba. He wore a turban too. In those days all the ladies in Persia wore veils and big, dark cloaks that covered them all up. When Navváb went visiting she wore one of those big cloaks and a veil, and she travelled in a covered seat on the back of a mule. A mule is like a big donkey. Whenever Navváb or the children went out a servant always went with them. There were no cars or buses in those days, everybody travelled on horseback, or on mules or donkeys, or walked.

Bahá'u'lláh and His wife were kind to everybody. They were especially kind to poor people who were cold and hungry. They gave them food and other things. No-one was turned away. Many important people came to the palace. The men came to see Bahá'u'lláh and the women and children came to see Navváb.

The palace was always a busy place. The three children, 'Abbas Effendi, Bahiyyih Khanum and Mirzá Mihdí were happy there, with their loving parents. Sometimes the family left the palace and went to their house in the country. 'Abbas Effendi and Bahiyyih Khanum especially liked that, because they could play in the beautiful gardens. There were many kinds of wonderful fruits and flowers and flowering trees in the gardens.

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