

Baha'is Note Martyrdom Of Founder

Tuesday in the Foundation hall of the Baha'i house of worship in Wilmette. Baha'is of Chicago and its suburbs, will commemorate with a fitting service, the martyrdom of the forerunner of the faith, Mirza 'Ali-Muhammad of Shiraz, Persia, known as the Bab (the Gate). On May 23, 1844, the Bab proclaimed his two-fold mission as an independent manifestation of God and Herald of One greater than himself, Who would inaugurate a new and unprecedented era in the religious history of mankind. Just as humanity has always persecuted its saviours, the Bab too, after six years of steadfast and ardent teaching became a victim of fanatical persecution and was publicly martyred at Tabriz, July 9, 1850. His early life and sufferings as well as the heroism of his disciples is recorded minutely in "The Dawnbreakers," Nabil's narrative of the early days of the Baha'i faith.

True to the proclamation of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, announced his mission nineteen years later. Assailed from its infancy by the forces of religious fanaticism, the faith has, notwithstanding the martyrdom of its forerunner, the repeated banishments of its founder, the almost life-long imprisonment of its chief promoter, and the cruel death of no less than twenty thousand of its followers, succeeded in diffusing quietly and steadily its spirit throughout both the East and the West, and has established itself in no fewer than forty countries of the world. Tonight similar commemoration services of the martyrdom of the Bab will be held in Baha'i centers all over the world.