

A TIMELINE OF THE JEWS OF MASHAD

Iranian Jews are considered to be the descendants of the Assyrian 722 B.C. and Babylonian Exiles 586 B.C. Within this Diaspora, a smaller tribe of Jews evolved, due to their geographic setting in the city of Mashad, and their robust community ties.

- 1650 – Safavid Dynasty ruling in Iran calls to convert or kill all Iranian Jews
- 1739 – Nadir Shah of the Afsharid dynasty invades India.
- 1740 – Nadir Shah brings spoils back from his Indian invasion, in the form of treasures and jewels.
- 1746 – Nadir Shah orders the relocation of forty Jewish families from Qazvin to Khorasan province, for the purpose of guarding his acquired treasures and jewels.

Nadir Shah holds a favorable disposition towards Jews.
- 1747 – Nadir Shah is assassinated. Persecution of Iranian Jews resumes. Seventeen of the original forty original families move to Eydgah ghetto, Mashad.
- 1750 – Seven of the original forty families proceed from Sabzavar and settle in Mashad.
- 1755 – Sixteen of the original forty families proceed from Kalat and settle in Mashad.
- 1839 – The *Allahdad* - the forced conversion of Mashadi Jews to Islam - March 27, 1839 (12 Nissan 5599/11 Muharram 1255)

Mashadi (Anusim) live dual lives as crypto-Jews, through 1925
- 1840 – A number of Jewish families, unable to sustain the facade of Muslim faith, escaped to Herat, Afghanistan
- 1886 – Some Mashadi Jewish families immigrate to Turkmenistan, Russia, through 1917.
- 1890 – Muslim Mashadi attempts to expose secret Jewish burial proceedings of crypto-Jews. A potential pogrom is averted.
- 1890's – After completing the Hajj, some Mashadi families make Aliya to Jerusalem, instead of returning from Mecca to Mashad.
- 1901 – Haji Adonya HaCohen builds the first Mashadi Jewish synagogue in Jerusalem, followed by Haji Yehezkel's synagogue, built in 1905.
- 1910's – Some Mashadi Jews move to London

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- 1918 – Russian revolution and start of communism prompts the first wave of Mashadi Jews to return from Marv to Mashad.
- 1925 – Reza Shah permits freedom of religious practice in Iran. Mashadis begin to practice their Jewish faith openly
- 1946 – Second notable Blood Libel in Mashad forces the now openly Jewish Mashadi community to begin a decade long migration to Tehran and Israel.
- 1940's– Some Mashadi Jews move to United States, well through 1980's
- 1950's– Some Mashadi Jews move to Germany and Italy.
- 1979 – Iranian revolution impels Iranian Jews to flee Iran
- 2010 – Over twenty-thousand Mashadi Jews now reside in Israel, New York, Milan, Germany, and London.

The Mashadi community has survived persecution and a long period of forced conversion. They continue to proudly celebrate their Jewish faith and honor their sense of community to this day.



Global Mashadi Jewish Federation