



BAHÁ'Í FAITH

Ayyám-i-Há or Intercalary Days (February 26-March 1): These Days are devoted to spiritual preparation for the Fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated on the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year.

Bahá'í Fast (March 2 -20): The last month in the Bahá'í calendar. Bahá'ís between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink for 19 days from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation. Exemptions from the Fast are made for illness, pregnancy, nursing mothers, extended travel and arduous physical labor.

Naw-Rúz (March 21): Bahá'í New Year's Day astronomically fixed to commence the year on the spring equinox.

Festival of Ridván (April 21-May 2): Annual Bahá'í festival commemorating the 12 days (April 21-May 2, 1863) when Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq. At this time he publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. *The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days.*

Declaration of the Báb (May 23): Bahá'í commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (May 29): Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, on May 29, 1892.

Martyrdom of the Báb (July 9): Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the execution of the 30-year-old prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, known as the Báb, by a firing squad, July 9, 1850, in Tabríz, Persia.

Birth of the Báb (October 20): Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth of the Bab ("gate" in Arabic), prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, on October 20, 1819, in Shíráz, Persia. His given name was Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad.

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (November 12): Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh (born Mírzá Husayn-'Alí) on November 12, 1817, in Núr, Persia. Bahá'u'lláh, which means the "Glory of God," was the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

Day of the Covenant (November 26): Festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of his son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as his successor and the Center of His Covenant.

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (November 28): Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the death of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the eldest son and successor of Bahá'u'lláh, in 1921. Bahá'ís observe the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá at 1 a.m., the approximate time of his death.



The Bahá'í year consists of 19 months of 19 days each (361 days), with the addition of “intercalary days” (four in regular and five in leap years) between the eighteenth and nineteenth months to adjust the calendar to the solar year. The months are named for the attributes of God. The Bahá'í New Year begins with the March equinox (March 21). The Bahá'í Era commenced with the year of the Báb's declaration (1844 A.D.).

Each Bahá'í community holds a 19-Day Feast (a meeting based on spiritual, administrative and social aspects) on the first day of the Bahá'í month. Since the Bahá'í day lasts from sunset to sunset, the 19-Day Feast is generally held in the evening on the day before the first day of the Bahá'í month according to the Gregorian calendar.

Bahá'í Month	Arabic Name	Translation	First Day
1st	Bahá	Splendor	March 21
2nd	Jalál	Glory	April 9
3rd	Jamál	Beauty	April 28
4th	`Azamat	Grandeur	May 17
5th	Nur	Light	June 5
6th	Rahm	Mercy	June 24
7th	Kalimát	Words	July 13
8th	Kamál	Perfection	August 1
9th	Asmá'	Names	August 20
10th	`Izzat	Might	September 8
11th	Mashiyyat	Will	September 27
12th	`Ilm	Knowledge	October 16
13th	Qudrat	Power	November 4
14th	Qawl	Speech	November 23
15th	Masá'il	Questions	December 13
16th	Sharaf	Honor	December 31
17th	Sultán	Sovereignty	January 19
18th	Mulk	Dominion	February 7
	Ayyám-i-Há	Intercalary Days	Feb. 26-March 1
19th	'Alá'	Loftiness	March 2 *

* March 2 – March 20 Bahá'í Month of Fasting

The last month in the Bahá'í calendar is dedicated to the Fast. During this time, Bahá'ís between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink for 19 days from sunrise to sunset, setting aside time for prayer and meditation. Exemptions from the Fast are made for illness, pregnancy, nursing mothers, extended travel and arduous physical labor.

For more information, go to www.bahai.us.