



Days to Remember

Three Holy Days occur during the month of November

Anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh Á– November 12

The Birth of the Abhá Beauty was at the hour of dawn on the second day of the month of Muharram, the first day of which marketh the Birth of His Herald. These two days are accounted as one in the sight of God.

Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh: *KitÁjb-i-Aqdas*, Questions and Answers, p. 105

Work and school attendance should be suspended on this Holy Day which is observed between sunset on November 11 and sunset on November 12.

In the Muslim lunar calendar the Births of Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh and the BÁjb fall on consecutive days, the birth of Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh on the second day of the month of Muharram 1233 A.H. (November 12, 1817), and the birth of the BÁjb on the first day of the same month 1235 A.H. (October 20, 1819), respectively. They are thus referred to as the "Twin Birthdays" and Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh states that these two days are accounted as one in the sight of God.

He states that, should they fall within the month of fasting, the command to fast shall not apply on those days.

Given that the Bahá'í Á'Á calendar is a solar calendar, it remains for the Universal House of Justice to determine whether the Twin Holy Birthdays are to be celebrated on a solar or lunar basis.

Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh: *KitÁjb-i-Aqdas*, Notes, p. 225

Anniversary of the Ascension of Á'AbduÁ'l-BahÁj Á– November 28

The passing of Á'AbduÁ'l-BahÁj, on the other hand, marks the closing of the Heroic and Apostolic Age of this same Dispensation Á– that primitive period of our Faith the splendours of which can never be rivalled, much less be eclipsed, by the magnificence that must needs distinguish the future victories of Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh's Revelation.

Shoghi Effendi: *World Order of Bahá'í Á'uÁ'IlÁjh*, p. 143

He had gone from the gaze of His loved ones!

The eyes that had always looked out with loving kindness upon humanity, whether friends or foes, were now closed. The hands that had ever been stretched forth to give alms to the poor and the needy, the halt and the maimed, the blind, the orphan and the widow, had now finished their labour. The feet that, with untiring zeal, had gone upon the ceaseless errands of the Lord of Compassion were now at rest. The lips that had so eloquently championed the cause of the suffering sons of men, were now hushed in silence. The heart that had so powerfully throbbed with wondrous love for the children of God was now stilled. His glorious spirit had passed from the life on earth, from the persecutions of the enemies of righteousness, from the storm and stress of well nigh eighty years of indefatigable toil for the good of others.

His long martyrdom was ended!

Shoghi Effendi and Lady Blomfield: *The Passing of Á'AbduÁ'l-BahÁj*, pp. 7Á–9

Day of the Covenant Á– November 26

Á"In response to your letter of 2 December 1984 asking a question about the event

commemorated on the Day of the Covenant, the Universal House of Justice has directed us to send you the following extract from a letter written on behalf of the beloved Guardian on this subject:

‘The Day of the Covenant Nov. 26th and the Day of the Ascension Nov. 28th, anniversaries of the birth and the Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Bah must be observed by the friends coming together, but work is not prohibited. In other words the friends must regard observance of these two anniversaries as obligatory – but suspension of work not to be regarded as obligatory.’

The explanation of how 26 November came to be substituted, in relation to the Birthday of ‘Abdu’l-Bah, for 23 May is related by the late Hand of the Cause Hasan M. Balyuzi in his book, ‘Abdu’l-Bah, on page 523:

‘Abdu’l-Bah told the Bahá’ís that this day was not, under any circumstances, to be celebrated as His day of birth. It was the day of the Declaration of the Báb, exclusively associated with Him. But as the Bahá’ís begged for a day to be celebrated as His, He gave them November 26th, to be observed as the day of the appointment of the Centre of the Covenant...’

The House of Justice hopes that this will assist your understanding of the significance of this important date in the Bahá’í calendar.”

From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to the Administrative Committee for South Zaire, January 23, 1984

