



BADĪ' (CALENDAR)

BADĪ', designation of the calendar system of **Babism** and **Bahaism**, originally introduced by the **Bāb** in several works, including his Persian *Bayān* (5:3, pp. 152-54). It is based on a solar year of nineteen months, each of nineteen days, together with four or five intercalary days (whose positioning is a matter of disagreement between Azalī Babis and Bahais). There are also cycles (*wāhed*) of nineteen years, each year of which has a particular name: Each such cycle constitutes a *koll šay'*. The months and days of the week have Babi names. The year begins on the vernal equinox, which is celebrated as Nowrūz. The Bāb himself did not appoint any other festivals than this (although he did mention "days of glory and sadness" on which sermons were to be read; Arabic *Bayān* 7:11, p. 30), but a total of eleven days are held sacred by the Bahais in commemoration of events in the history of the sect; work is suspended on nine of these (*Bahā'ī World*, pp. 688-89). The last month of the year ('Alā') replaces Ramažān as that of the fast, observed, as in Islam, from sunrise to sunset. Friday is reserved by the Bāb, not as a day of congregational prayer, but as a time for listening to sermons (Arabic *Bayān* 9:9, p. 42). Bahais date the commencement of the Badi' era from the Nowrūz preceding the announcement of the Bāb's mission in Jomādā I, 1260/May, 1844 (Browne, *Traveller's Narrative*, p. 425), but there are indications that the Bāb himself intended it to begin in the sixth year after that event (Miller, *Bahā'ī Faith*, p. 63; cf. Bāb, *Haykal al-dīn*, pp. 5-6).



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