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NAWRUZ

NawRúz ([Persian](#): نوروز, [romanize](#) [d](#): *Nowruz*) is the first day of the [Bahá'í calendar](#) year and one of nine [holy days](#) for adherents of the [Bahá'í Faith](#). It occurs on the [vernal equinox](#), on or near March 21, which is the [traditional Iranian and Afghanistan New Year](#).^[1]

The traditional [Nowruz](#) holiday, from which the Baha'i holiday derives, has been celebrated since ancient times in [Iran](#), and is observed by culturally-adjacent peoples in [Azerbaijan](#), [Turkey](#), [Iraq](#), [Armenia](#), [Georgia](#), [Russia](#), [Afghanistan](#)

[n](#), [Pakistan](#), [Syria](#), and [Tajikistan](#).^[1] The [Báb](#), the founder of [Bábism](#), and then [Bahá'u'lláh](#), the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, adopted the day as a holy day and associated it with the *Most Great Name* of God.^{[1][2]} The Baha'i holiday as now calculated does not always fall on the same day as the traditional festival (but may differ by one day), and does not incorporate a number of Persian cultural practices associated with the traditional holiday, but is a religious event featuring readings from Baha'i scriptures.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The [Báb](#), the founder of [Bábi religion](#), instituted the [Badí' calendar](#) composed of 19 months, each of 19 days.^[3] The first month, and the first day of each month, are both named [Bahá](#), an [Arabic](#) word meaning splendour or glory. Thus Naw-Rúz, the first day of the year, is the day of Bahá in the month of Bahá.^{[1][4]} The day was called *the Day of God* by the Báb, and was associated with [He whom God shall make manifest](#), a messianic figure in the Báb's writings.^[2]

[Bahá'u'lláh](#), the founder of the [Bahá'í Faith](#) who is recognized as the messianic figure expected by the Báb, adopted the new calendar and the use of Naw-Rúz as a holy day.^[1] The day follows the [Bahá'í month of fasting](#), and he explained that Naw-Rúz was associated with the *Most Great Name* of God,^{[1][4]} and was instituted as a festival for those who observed the fast.^{[5][6]}

The symbolic notion of the renewal of time in each religious dispensation was made explicit by the writings of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh and the calendar and the new year made this spiritual metaphor more concrete.^[2] ['Abdu'l-Bahá](#), Bahá'u'lláh's son and successor, explained that significance of Naw-Rúz in terms of spring and the new life it brings.^[1] He explained that the equinox is a symbol of the [Manifestations of God](#), who include [Jesus](#), [Muhammad](#), the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh among others, and the message that they proclaim is like a spiritual springtime, and that Naw-Rúz is used to commemorate it.