

## Naw Rúz

The following is a quote from Edward Granville Brown's translation of the Bayán concerning Naw Rúz. It was edited by Moojan Momen in "Selections from the Writings of E.G. Brown on the Bábí and Bahá'í Religions" p. 362.

*". . . And the first month is the Month of the Point [Nuqta<sup>1</sup>], round which the (18) months of the Living revolve: its similitude amongst the months is as the Sun, while the rest of the months are like Mirrors, and it is named by God the month of Bahá, seeing that the splendor (Bahá) of all the months is included in it. For God hath set it apart for Him whom God shall manifest; and to each day thereof He hath given an affinity with one of the Letters of the Unity. And the First Day (of the First Month), which is the New Year's Day (Naw Rúz) is the day of 'there is no god but God'. The like of that day is as the Nuqta in the Bayán, by whom all are created, and to whom all return; whom God hath made the manifestation thereof (i.e. of 'there is no god but God'), the Nuqta-i-Bayán, the Person of the Seven Letters, which is in this Manifestation, the Throne of Him whom God shall manifest. . . . He it is through whom the reality of all things is, and whose nature is through God. Whosoever shall declare the Unity of God ('There is no god but God!') 361 times in that day will remain glad throughout the year."*

This striking assertion by the Báb about the value of Naw Rúz can be seen in relation to fundamental, but often overlooked, Bahá'í theological doctrines. Bahá'u'llah asserts the unknowable nature of God's Essence. In Islamic tradition, this unknowable Nature of God is symbolized by the letter "H" or "Há." "The Days of Há" or Ayyám-i-Há are the days associated with the unknowable and transcendent Nature of God. This is the aspect of God's Essence that transcends all things, even the expression of His own Attributes. Hence, just as the Essence of God is transcendent above His Attributes, so too these Days of Há stand outside the normal cycle of 19 months which are named after the primal attributes of God in the Badi` calendar. The Ayyám-i-Há is far more than a filler to make up 365 days in a calendar year. They are the days of the Supreme and Transcendent Godhead.

God, then calls creation into being through His Manifestation of primal Attributes. The Báb states in the Persian Bayán that there are 19 primal Attributes from which all things are generated. ("There are 19 names which indicate God, Him whose shadow all Names and Similitudes are mentioned. p. 342) These 19 attributes coincide with the names of the days of the month and months of the year in the Badi` calendar. One might reflect on the possibility that the Badi` calendar itself is a theological testimony to the oneness of God (Há), His causing the creation to be called into being through His Attributes, and that these attributes have been consummated and perfected in the "Point" ("Nuqta") of the day of Bahá in the month of Bahá, that is, Naw Rúz.

No wonder then, that this season, which began with the affirmation of the oneness of God during Ayyám-i-Há, was purified in the hearts of the believers through the 19 days of the Fast that represent His primal attributes, holds the rank of a high Holy Day as it culminates in the resplendent and manifest Day of Bahá'u'lláh Himself.

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1 نقطة