

When is the Holy Day?

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**According to
the Badí' Calendar**

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Who? What? Where? When? Why?

This presentation is designed for Bahá'ís who are beginning to implement the provisions of the Badí' calendar.

(*Badí'* is an Arabic word that means “new” or “wonderful”. The Badí' calendar was revealed by the Báb, then ratified by Bahá'u'lláh.)

Who? **What?** Where? When? Why?

**Some information
about calendars,
about the Badí' calendar, and
about how the Gregorian calendar relates to the Badí' calendar**

Who? What? **Where?** When? Why?

Here

Who? What? Where? **When?** Why?

Now

Who? What? Where? When? **Why?**

In response to this letter from the Universal House of Justice

The setting of the sun on 20 March 2015 will signalize the end of the year 171, the close of the ninth Váḥid of the first Kull-i-Shay' of the Bahá'í Era. We call upon the Bahá'ís of the East and West to adopt, on that auspicious occasion, the provisions that will unite them in the common *implementation of the Badí' calendar.*

letter dated July 10, 2014

1. The Science of Calendars

2. See with your own eyes

3. Important Dates in the Badí' Calendar

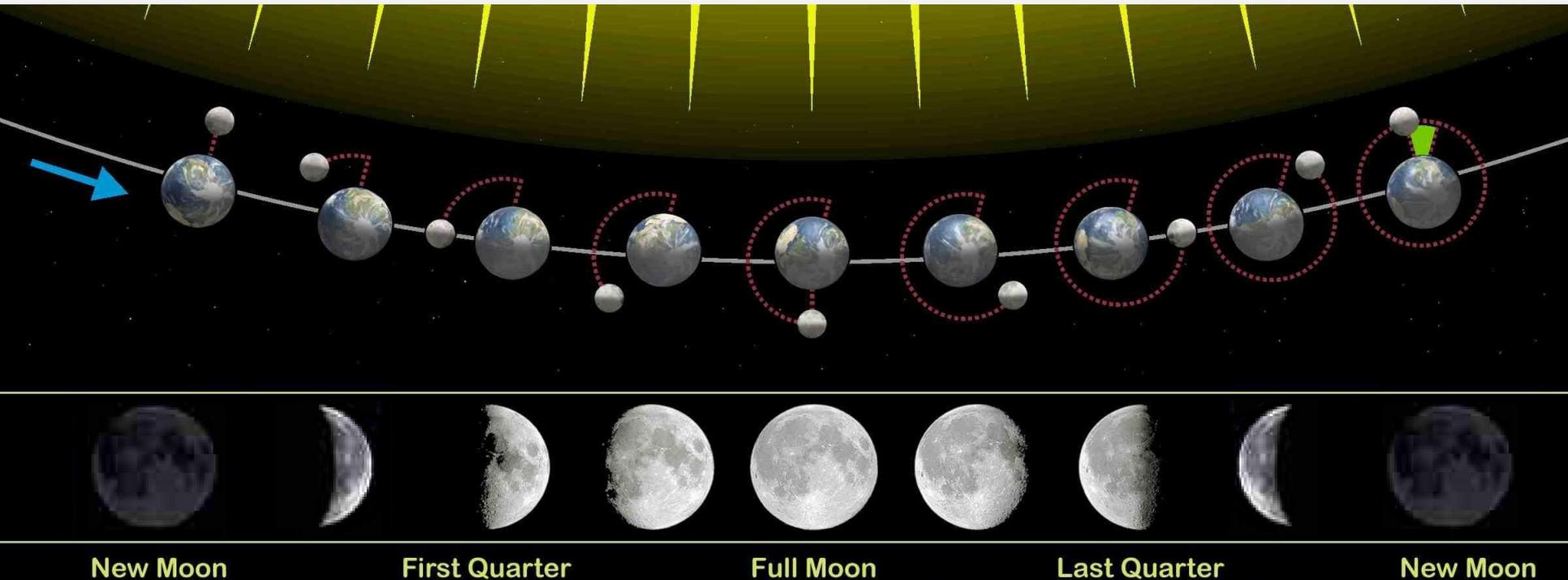
4. Finding the Gregorian equivalent

1. The Science of Calendars

- Pattern recognition is an important aspect of intelligence.
- One of the most basic patterns is light and dark.
- Our ancestors recognized this cycle of daylight and darkness.
- They recognized that light comes from the sun.

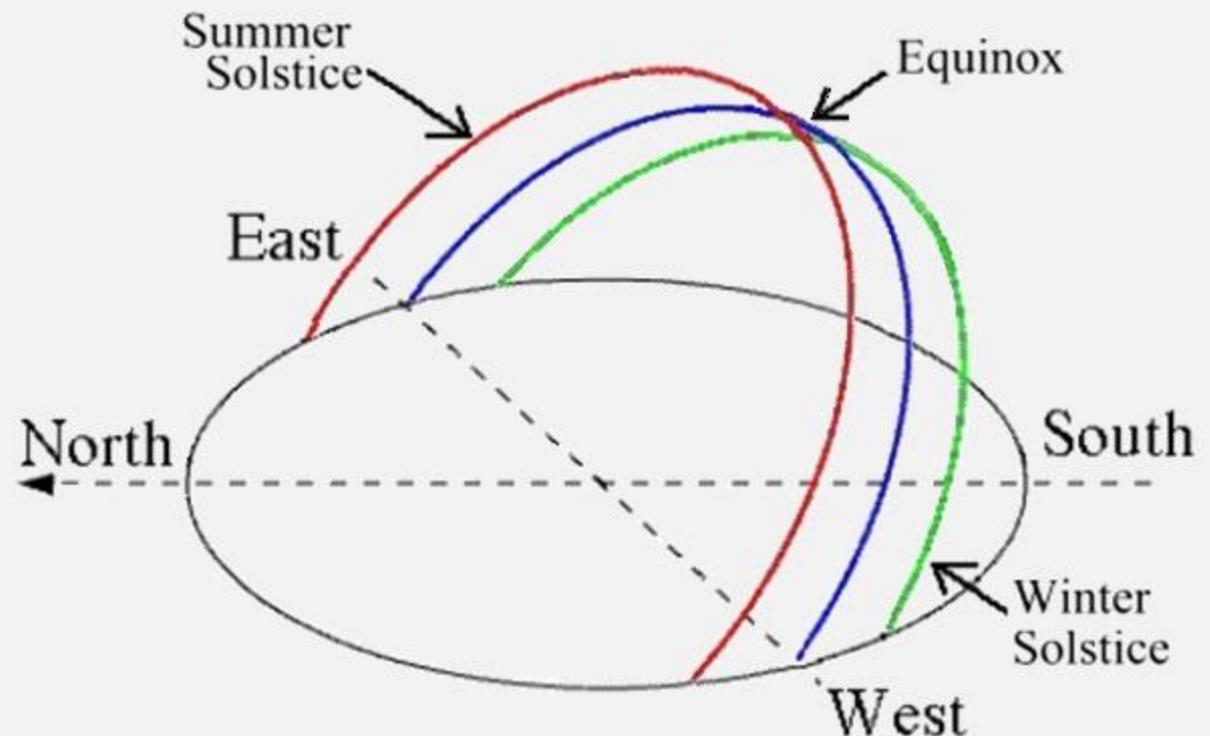


- The next level of complexity was phases of the moon.
- They called the cycle a moonth.
- They divided the month into four sections called weeks.
- The first calendars were lunar.

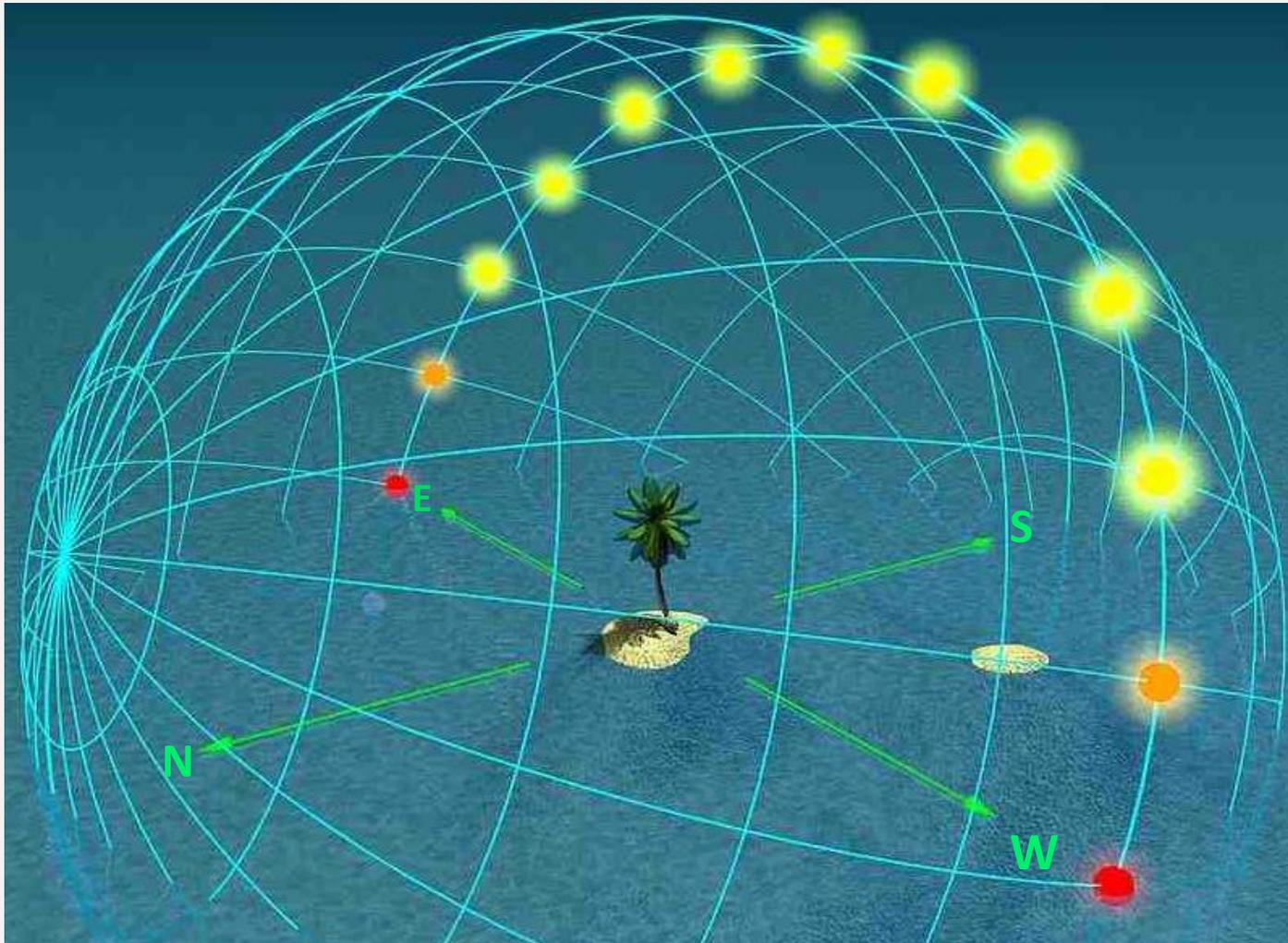


- The next level of complexity was the year.
- The sun seemed to circle the earth about every 365 days.
- The position of the sun marked the seasons of the year, telling farmers when to plant and when to harvest.

Path of the Sun and the Four Seasons



They saw that when the sun travels precisely along the equator, then day and night are equal – the equinox.



- For our ancestors, the vernal equinox was a major event.
- The planting season was the start of the agricultural year .
- After the spring equinox the days grew longer and warmer.
- The first day of spring was celebrated as a festival of the renewal of life, of the ascendancy of the sun.

2. See with your own eyes

- The Badí' day is a religious day, following an ancient pattern.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good.

And God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day,

And the darkness He called Night.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.

(Bible, Genesis 1:3-5)

- Calling the light day and the darkness night defines a physical day.
- Calling the evening and the morning the first day defines a religious day.

- Why does our religious day end with the setting of the sun?
- God knows; we can only suppose. Some thoughts are:
 1. Just as in chapter one of the book of Genesis, there is darkness, then there is light. Each religious day reminds us of the first day.
 2. It is more than just a reminder. With each religious day, there is darkness, then God says *Let there be light*. Each religious day replays the creation of the world.
 3. When humanity is lost in the darkness, God sends His Manifestation to help us find the way. Each religious day replays the coming of the Manifestation of God.
 4. You don't need a clock to know when the religious day begins – you can see with your own eyes.

5. In the Badí' calendar, the vernal equinox signals the start of the religious year. The only math you need is to count to twelve hours. You can see with our own eyes when the year begins.

3. Important Dates in the Badí' Calendar

- Just for review, here are the days of the week:

weekday	translation	transliteration	Arabic
Saturday	Glory	Jalál	جلال
Sunday	Beauty	Jamál	جمال
Monday	Perfection	Kamál	كمال
Tuesday	Grace	Fiḍál	فضال
Wednesday	Justice	'Idál	عدال
Thursday	Majesty	Istijlál	استجلال
Friday	Independence	Istiqhlál	استقلال

- These are the Bahá'í Holy Days and their dates:

Naw-Rúz	1 Bahá
First Day of Riḍván	13 Jalál
Ninth Day of Riḍván	2 Jamál
Twelfth Day of Riḍván	5 Jamál
Declaration of the Báb	8 'Aḏamat
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	13 'Aḏamat
Martyrdom of the Báb	17 Raḥmat
Birth of the Báb	1st day after the 8 th new moon following Naw-Rúz
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	2d day after the 8 th new moon following Naw-Rúz
Day of the Covenant	4 Qawl
Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá	6 Qawl

(The Universal House of Justice established these dates for Holy Days. There are conflicting dates in the historical record, because in those days, the start day of a lunar month could vary from town to town.)

3. Important dates in the Badí' calendar

- For example, since the worldwide implementation of the Badí' calendar:
- When is the First Day of Riḍván ? On 13 Jalál.
- When is the Martyrdom of the Báb? On 17 Raḥmat.
- And so forth, the same dates in each and every year.
- The only exceptions are the Twin Birthdays.

- The Twin Birthdays will always occur on the first and second days after the eighth new moon following Naw-Rúz; since the lunar calendar does not match up precisely with the solar calendar, the Badí' dates of the Twin Birthdays will vary from year to year. But you don't have to figure it out yourself.
- An ad hoc committee at the Bahá'í World Centre has published a table that shows the dates of the Twin Birthdays (and Naw-Rúz and Ayyám-i-Há) for the next fifty years.

4. Finding the Gregorian equivalent

- The three cycles of the sun – daily, monthly, and yearly – don't match. Go figure!
- Reconciling the lunar year with the solar year takes some adjustment between the calendars, called “intercalation”.
- Most cultures intercalated their calendar by devising a mathematical formula to predict the future – when each year will begin, when the solstices and equinoxes will occur. Basically, they would add a few extra days or months now and again, to reconcile the shorter lunar calendar with the longer solar calendar. The Gregorian calendar does this.
- The predicted calendar dates are only as accurate as the formula from which they are derived.

- The Badí' day begins at sunset – you can see when one day ends and the next day begins.
- The Gregorian day begins at midnight. You need a machine – a clock – to know when one day ends and the next day begins.

- The Badí' year starts on the vernal equinox, or first day of spring, which we celebrate as Naw-Rúz.
- In the Badí' calendar, the first day of spring is found by observation (of the point when the length of the night and day are equal in Tehran), and will be quite accurate in the coming years, always on 1 Bahá'. We find it by seeing with our own eyes.
- In the Gregorian calendar, however, the choice for the first day of spring is based on computation, using a formula devised centuries ago.
- The Gregorian date of the vernal equinox varies –the first day of spring will usually be either 20 March or 21 March. We find it by using the mathematical formula established by Pope Gregory XIII's work group back in 1582.

- The Twin Birthdays vary from year to year, because the Universal House of Justice chose a formula that keeps the lunar character of the Holy Days.
- You can figure it out yourself by finding the first new moon after Naw-Rúz, then counting to the eighth new moon after Naw-Rúz; on the first day after the eighth new moon after Naw-Rúz hold your observance of the Birth of the Báb, and on the second day after the eighth new moon after Naw-Rúz hold your observance of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh.
- If you would rather not figure it out by yourself, you can use the tables mentioned earlier.

- Here is an extract from those tables:

Naw-Rúz		The Birth of the Báb and The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh		Ayyám-i-Há	
Bahá'í Dates	Gregorian Equivalent	Bahá'í Dates	Gregorian Equivalent	Bahá'í Dates	Gregorian Equivalent
1 Bahá 172	21 Mar 2015	10, 11 Qudrat	13, 14 Nov 2015	1-4	26-29 Feb 2016
1 Bahá 173	20 Mar 2016	18, 19 'Ilm	1, 2 Nov 2016	1-4	25-28 Feb 2017
1 Bahá 174	20 Mar 2017	7, 8 'Ilm	21, 22 Oct 2017	1-5	25 Feb-1 Mar 2018
1 Bahá 175	21 Mar 2018	6, 7 Qudrat	9, 10 Nov 2018	1-4	26 Feb-1 Mar 2019
1 Bahá 176	21 Mar 2019	14, 15 'Ilm	29, 30 Oct 2019	1-4	26-29 Feb 2020
1 Bahá 177	20 Mar 2020	4, 5 'Ilm	18, 19 Oct 2020	1-4	25-28 Feb 2021
1 Bahá 178	20 Mar 2021	4, 5 Qudrat	6, 7 Nov 2021	1-5	25 Feb-1 Mar 2022
1 Bahá 179	21 Mar 2022	11, 12 'Ilm	26, 27 Oct 2022	1-4	26 Feb-1 Mar 2023
1 Bahá 180	21 Mar 2023	1, 2 'Ilm	16, 17 Oct 2023	1-4	26-29 Feb 2024
1 Bahá 181	20 Mar 2024	19 'Ilm, 1 Qudrat	2, 3 Nov 2024	1-4	25-28 Feb 2025
1 Bahá 182	20 Mar 2025	8, 9 'Ilm	22, 23 Oct 2025	1-5	25 Feb-1 Mar 2026
1 Bahá 183	21 Mar 2026	7, 8 Qudrat	10, 11 Nov 2026	1-4	26 Feb-1 Mar 2027
1 Bahá 184	21 Mar 2027	15, 16 'Ilm	30, 31 Oct 2027	1-4	26-29 Feb 2028
1 Bahá 185	20 Mar 2028	5, 6 'Ilm	19, 20 Oct 2028	1-4	25-28 Feb 2029
1 Bahá 186	20 Mar 2029	5, 6 Qudrat	7, 8 Nov 2029	1-4	25-28 Feb 2030
1 Bahá 187	20 Mar 2030	14, 15 'Ilm	28, 29 Oct 2030	1-5	25 Feb-1 Mar 2031
1 Bahá 188	21 Mar 2031	2, 3 'Ilm	17, 18 Oct 2031	1-4	26-29 Feb 2032
1 Bahá 189	20 Mar 2032	2, 3 Qudrat	4, 5 Nov 2032	1-4	25-28 Feb 2033
1 Bahá 190	20 Mar 2033	10, 11 'Ilm	24, 25 Oct 2033	1-4	25-28 Feb 2034

- To determine the Gregorian equivalent date for the other Holy Days, we first find the Gregorian equivalent for Naw-Rúz.
- On years when it is 20 March, this table applies:

Naw-Rúz	1 Bahá	20 March
First Day of Riḍván	13 Jalál	20 April
Ninth Day of Riḍván	2 Jamál	28 April
Twelfth Day of Riḍván	5 Jamál	1 May
Declaration of the Báb	8 ‘Aẓamat	23 May
Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh	13 ‘Aẓamat	28 May
Martyrdom of the Báb	17 Raḥmat	9 July
Day of the Covenant	4 Qawl	25 November
Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá	6 Qawl	27 November

4. Finding the Gregorian equivalent date

- For Feast Days on years when Naw-Rúz coincides with 20 March (such as 173 BE), this table applies:

	Month	Feast Day	Gregorian Equivalent Date
1	Bahá' (Splendour)	1 Bahá'	20 March
2	Jalál (Glory)	1 Jalál	8 April
3	Jamál (Beauty)	1 Jamál	27 April
4	'Ażamat (Grandeur)	1 'Ażamat	16 May
5	Núr (Light)	1 Núr	4 June
6	Raḥmat (Mercy)	1 Raḥmat	23 June
7	Kalimát (Words)	1 Kalimát	12 July
8	Kamál (Perfection)	1 Kamál	31 July
9	Asmá' (Names)	1 Asmá'	19 August
10	'Izzat (Might)	1 'Izzat	7 September
11	Mashíyyat (Will)	1 Mashíyyat	26 September
12	'Ilm (Knowledge)	1 'Ilm	15 October
13	Qudrat (Power)	1 Qudrat	3 November
14	Qawl (Speech)	1 Qawl	22 November
15	Masá'il (Questions)	1 Masá'il	11 December
16	<u>Sh</u> araf (Honour)	1 <u>Sh</u> araf	30 December
17	Sulṭán (Sovereignty)	1 Sulṭán	18 January
18	Mulk (Dominion)	1 Mulk	6 February
19	'Alá' (Loftiness)	1 'Alá'	after the last day of Ayyám-i-Há (in 173 BE → 1 March 2017)

- On years when the Gregorian equivalent date for Naw-Rúz is 21 March, this table applies:

Naw-Rúz	1 Bahá	21 March
First Day of Riḍván	13 Jalál	21 April
Ninth Day of Riḍván	2 Jamál	29 April
Twelfth Day of Riḍván	5 Jamál	2 May
Declaration of the Báb	8 ‘Aḏamat	24 May
Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh	13 ‘Aḏamat	29 May
Martyrdom of the Báb	17 Raḥmat	10 July
Day of the Covenant	4 Qawl	26 November
Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá	6 Qawl	28 November

4. Finding the Gregorian equivalent date

- For Feast Days on years when Naw-Rúz coincides with 21 March (such as 172 BE), this table applies:

	Month	Feast Day	Gregorian Equivalent Date
1	Bahá' (Splendour)	1 Bahá'	21 March
2	Jalál (Glory)	1 Jalál	9 April
3	Jamál (Beauty)	1 Jamál	28 April
4	'Ażamat (Grandeur)	1 'Ażamat	17 May
5	Núr (Light)	1 Núr	5 June
6	Raḥmat (Mercy)	1 Raḥmat	24 June
7	Kalimát (Words)	1 Kalimát	13 July
8	Kamál (Perfection)	1 Kamál	1 August
9	Asmá' (Names)	1 Asmá'	20 August
10	'Izzat (Might)	1 'Izzat	8 September
11	Mashíyyat (Will)	1 Mashíyyat	27 September
12	'Ilm (Knowledge)	1 'Ilm	16 October
13	Qudrat (Power)	1 Qudrat	4 November
14	Qawl (Speech)	1 Qawl	23 November
15	Masá'il (Questions)	1 Masá'il	12 December
16	<u>Sh</u> araf (Honour)	1 <u>Sh</u> araf	31 December
17	Sulṭán (Sovereignty)	1 Sulṭán	19 January
18	Mulk (Dominion)	1 Mulk	7 February
19	'Alá' (Loftiness)	1 'Alá'	after the last day of Ayyám-i-Há (in 172 BE → 1 March 2016)

- Did you notice that the Gregorian equivalent dates for 1 Alá' 172 BE and 1 Alá' 173 BE are the same date of the (Gregorian) month, despite the fact that the Gregorian equivalents for Naw-Rúz are different in those two years?
- That occurs because, starting in 172 BE, the Badí' calendar and the Gregorian calendar are no longer synchronized.
- 2016 is a Gregorian leap year, but the Ayyám-i-Há of 172 BE has only four days. The Fast in 172 BE starts on 1 Alá', for which the Gregorian equivalent date is 1 March 2016.
- Ayyám-i-Há has four days in 173 BE as well, so the Gregorian equivalent date to 1 Alá' 173 BE BE falls on 1 March 2017, and to Naw-Rúz 174 BE falls on 20 March 2017.
- Ayyám-i-Há of 174 BE has five days. The Fast in 174 BE starts on 1 Alá', the Gregorian equivalent of which is 2 March 2018. Naw-Rúz 175 BE is on 1 Bahá' 175 BE, for which the Gregorian equivalent date is 21 March 2018.

SUMMARY

1. When is Naw-Rúz? Naw-Rúz is on 1 Bahá.
2. The Badí' calendar is independent of the Gregorian calendar. If it happens to be a Gregorian leap year, that does not mean that there will be five days in Ayyám-i-Há.
3. The Twin Birthdays are related to the moon, so they won't have the same Badí' date from year to year.
4. Once you have the Badí' date, if you want to find the Gregorian equivalent date, there are resources available:
 - letters from the Universal House of Justice
 - chapters in the "Guidelines for Spiritual Assemblies"
 - calendars from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust
5. We are all just starting to learn this system – be patient!