

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello children! Did you know that the days of Ayyám-i-Há are coming? What are they? Do you know? I seem to recall we did a little sum on that one some time ago. Do you remember 19 months of 19 days and four left over? Well, these four days are special, and particularly good children get a little extra pocket money, but don't tell anyone who told you!

Now, last month we were talking about the time after Bahá'u'lláh had reached Baghdad. At this time the followers of the Báb were in disarray. They had suffered terrible persecution and a number had fled to Baghdad in the hope of finding safety. They were terribly frightened, and desperately unhappy. Bahá'u'lláh had also been through great suffering, but He was determined to gather the Bábís together and make them happy again. You see, they had lost their beloved Báb, but before He was executed, He told them to wait for the year Nine, when a Very Special Person would come to them. So who was that Very Special Person? Yes – it was Bahá'u'lláh! So when was the year Nine? Well, it was the ninth year after the Declaration of the Báb. Now you know that it was in 1844 that the Báb finally told everyone Who He was – no less than a Divine Messenger from God – in fact, a Manifestation of God. So nine years after 1844 takes us to the year 1853; and in what year did Bahá'u'lláh arrive in Baghdad? Yes – in the year 1853! Doesn't that work out perfectly? You see, when a Manifestation of God says that something is so – believe me, it is! A Manifestation of God is *never* wrong!

So the Bábís were waiting for someone Very Special, and when Bahá'u'lláh came to them in the year nine, you can imagine that they felt better already. Now this is where something strange happened. You remember that Mirza Yayha, Bahá'u'lláh's half-brother, was put in charge of the Bábís by the Báb? Well, as we have said, Mirza Yayha was as different from Bahá'u'lláh as anyone could imagine, and he kept a very low profile as they say, so nobody in authority knew he was there at all. When he found all the followers of the Báb gathering around Bahá'u'lláh, he wasn't pleased at all. You see, he thought he was very important, but nobody else did, which made him mad! Life is odd, isn't it? The people that think they are important are not, and the ones that don't think they are important, are. So what happened? I'll tell you next month!

Enjoy Ayyám-i-Há, and be good.

Michael