

[AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

Naw-Rúz 2017

To the Followers of Bahá'u'lláh in the Cradle of the Faith

On the occasion of the advent of Naw-Rúz and the arrival of soul-stirring springtime, we convey our warm greetings to you, followers of the Abhá Beauty and loved ones of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. We hope that the revitalization of nature, along with the joyful news you receive of the progress of the Cause, will cheer and refresh your hearts and spirits. Naw-Rúz 2017 marks the beginning of the year of the two-hundredth anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in the sacred city of Tīhrán, a year during which Bahá'ís throughout the world, together with other champions of peace and brotherhood, will honour the greatness of His Mission to establish the unity of humankind. A great multitude in cities and villages, and many artists, writers, poets, leaders, educators and other prominent thinkers in every corner of the world, each according to his or her own initiative and inspiration, will mark that turning point in history. They will pay homage to the marvellous gift of His Revelation—which includes a new conception of religion, as well as a clear vision of the oneness of humanity and the guidance necessary for its realization. How befitting it is that many of the fair-minded and receptive citizens of Iran now take pride in the fact that this Personage is a Son of that sanctified soil and as a result of this blessed association, Iran is considered a sacred land and Naw-Rúz is celebrated every year throughout the world. Our thoughts and ardent prayers are constantly with you. Praise be to God that, through the confirmations of the Concourse on High, you have demonstrated to the people of Iran and of the world that, despite ongoing persecution by unjust and prejudiced elements, you continue, with wisdom, courage and meekness, to endeavour in the path of love for humanity, spreading the sweet savours of unity, and you hold no bitterness or resentment towards any individual, rank or authority.

[signed: The Universal House of Justice]