
9 Proofs of Baha'u'llah

Introduction

Bahá'ís believe that Bahá'u'lláh is a Divine Teacher sent by God with laws and teachings for mankind in this new age. In the past there have been many Prophets and Messengers. How do we know whether Bahá'u'lláh is really from God? It is the duty of everyone to investigate and decide the truth of this for themselves. There are many proofs which can be used to demonstrate the truth of Bahá'u'lláh's claim. These proofs can also be used to demonstrate the truth of other great Teachers of the past such as Krishna, Buddha, Moses, Christ and Muhammad.

Independent search for truth

Every person is held responsible by God for his own beliefs and actions. It is up to us to make sure that our beliefs are true. When a new Teacher comes from God everyone must investigate and make their own decision whether He is true or false. Bahá'u'lláh says:

'It behoveth every man to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of his heart, and to gaze with an open and unbiased mind, on the signs of His Revelation, the proofs of His Mission, and the tokens of His glory.'

The value of proofs

Proofs are signposts for seekers after truth. For one who has recognised the Manifestation of God, proofs will deepen and confirm that belief.

Nine proofs

We will now look at nine proofs of the truth of any Manifestation of God.

1. His Character

According to Bahá'u'lláh the 'first and foremost testimony' of a Messenger of God is 'His own Self'. He further states:

'Know verily that whenever this youth turneth His eyes towards His own self, he findeth it the most insignificant of all creation. When He contemplates, however, the bright effulgences He hath been empowered to manifest, lo, that self is transfigured before Him into a sovereign Potency permeating the essence of all things visible and invisible.'

The Manifestation of God has a dual nature consisting of both a divine station and a human station.

It is quite impossible to describe here all the ways in which Bahá'u'lláh was distinguished from those around Him. He showed innate knowledge from childhood and was always known for His extraordinary wisdom. The religious leaders of the day could not rival Him. He was always the friend of those in

need. Despite the great wealth of His father He demonstrated complete detachment from such things and refused to accept the post of Minister to the Shah (King) of Persia which was offered to Him upon His father's death. Instead of wealth He accepted a life of persecution, imprisonment and poverty in the path of God. From His prison He fearlessly addressed the kings, including the one whose prisoner He was, proclaiming His Mission, calling upon them to be just and fair to their people, to limit their armies and to make peace with each other.

2. His Revelation

The laws and teachings brought by Bahá'u'lláh are the next proof. Bahá'u'lláh compares His Revelation to 'an ocean in which are concealed innumerable pearls of great price, of surpassing lustre'. He identified God to be the origin of this Revelation rather than Himself.

It is not possible to review here all of the laws and teachings given to us by Bahá'u'lláh. His Writings amount to about one hundred volumes. Many of the principles laid down by Him were new or unappreciated in His time but are today widely accepted or are advocated by leaders of thought. These principles included the unity of mankind, equality of rights of men and women, universal education, unity of religion, world government, a world-wide system of weights and measures, a world language, world peace and a world

currency.

3. His verses

The verses (words) revealed by the Manifestation of God are different from those of men. They are the Word of God. They have great spiritual power and change the hearts of men. They possess a special beauty and eloquence.

4. The martyrs

When God sends a new teacher to mankind detached pure-hearted souls seek Him out. They become so inspired and transformed that they readily and joyfully sacrifice their wealth, position and even their lives in the path of God. Many thousands did just this during the time of Bahá'ullah rather than give up their faith.

5. The repudiation

Christ was persecuted by the clergy and the rulers of His day. The same happened to Muhammad and to every Manifestation of God. Bahá'u'lláh says this is because they do not want to give up anything for the sake of God and oppose God rather than obey Him.

6. The two-fold sign

Most of us know of the star which signaled the birth of Jesus and of John the Baptist who spoke of Him. Bahá'u'lláh says that every Manifestation of God is announced by one sign in the physical heaven (e.g. a star or comet) and another sign in the

spiritual heaven (e.g. a spiritual forerunner). Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation was preceded by the unusual double comet of 1852 and the great comet of 1861. In the spiritual heaven came the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah, Ali Muhammad, the Bab in 1844.

7. Prophecies Fulfilled

All the Manifestations of God are part of one Plan and each one foretells the coming of the next. However since Bahá'u'lláh is to bring together all of mankind His coming is foretold in the Scriptures of all religions.

Bahá'u'lláh said: 'The time fore-ordained unto the peoples and kindreds of the earth is now come'.

There are many of these prophecies which foretell both the time and place of the new Revelation and much more. Lack of space prevents further explanation here but this can be found in other books.

8. Future Events Foretold

Bahá'u'lláh made many prophecies of future events. All have so far proved correct such as the downfall of those rulers who persecuted Him and the double defeat of Germany in war. Others such as world peace and world government are soon to come to pass and signs of these events are already beginning to appear.

9. Miracles

While Bahá'u'lláh did many miraculous things He avoided public displays and

discouraged His followers from making them known as they may convince those who see them but not always those who hear of them second-hand.

Further reading

1. Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era - J Esselmont
2. Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh
3. Some Answered Questions
4. Thief in the Night

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