

SOURCES – ESSAY 4

“The world’s equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this most great, this new World Order. Mankind’s ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System—the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed.” (Baha’u’llah)

“O people! Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.” (Baha’u’llah)

“In this respect, if thou callest them all by one name, and dost ascribe to them the same attributes, thou hast not erred from the truth. Even as He hath revealed: “No distinction do We make between any of His Messengers.” (Baha’u’llah)

“As to the matter of names, Muḥammad, Himself, declared: ‘I am Jesus.’” (Baha’u’llah)

“Be ye assured, moreover, that the works and acts of each and every one of these Manifestations of God, nay whatever pertaineth unto them, and whatsoever they may manifest in the future, are all ordained by God, and are a reflection of His Will and Purpose. Whoso maketh the slightest possible difference between their persons, their words, their messages, their acts and manners, hath indeed disbelieved in God, hath repudiated His signs, and betrayed the Cause of His Messengers.” (Baha’u’llah)

“As they have literally interpreted the Word of God, and the sayings and traditions of the Letters of Unity, and expounded them according to their own deficient understanding, they have therefore deprived themselves and all their people of the bountiful showers of the grace and mercies of God.” (Baha’u’llah)

“Verily God hath inspired Thee (Christ) with divine verses and wisdom while still a child and hath graciously deigned to bestow His favour upon the peoples of the world through the influence of Thy **(Christ’s) Most Great Name**, for indeed men have not the least knowledge of the Book.” (The Bab, emphasis added)

“The purpose of the prophetic words was not the outward or literal meaning, but the inner symbolical significance” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“If the followers of the Lord Christ had continued to follow out these principles with steadfast faithfulness, there would have been no need for a renewal of the Christian Message, no necessity for a re-awakening of His people, for a great and glorious civilization would now be ruling the world and the Kingdom of Heaven would have come on earth.” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“When Christians act according to the teachings of Christ, they are called Baha’is. ... The difference among them is one of terminology only. ... The distinction between them is only one of the calendar No other difference exists because the foundations are the same. Whoever acts completely in accordance with the teachings of Christ is a Baha’i. The purpose is the essential meaning of Christian, not the mere word. ... We must not adore the dawning points but worship the sun. ... Be seekers of light, no matter from which lantern it shines forth. Be not lovers of the lantern. ...” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“It is for this reason, and this reason only, that those who have recognized the Light of God in this age, claim no finality for the Revelation with which they stand identified, nor arrogate to the Faith they have embraced powers and attributes intrinsically superior to, or essentially different from, those which have characterized any of the religious systems that preceded it.” (Shoghi Effendi)

“He (‘Abdu’l-Baha) uses the method of exaggerated emphasis in order to drive home His thought ...” (From a letter on behalf of Shoghi Effendi)

"The Revelation, of which Bahá'u'lláh is the source and center, abrogates none of the religions that have preceded it, nor does it attempt, in the slightest degree, to distort their features or to belittle their value. It disclaims any intention of dwarfing any of the Prophets of the past, or of whittling down the eternal verity of their teachings. It can, in no wise, conflict with the spirit that animates their claims, nor does it seek to undermine the basis of any man's allegiance to their cause." (Shoghi Effendi)

"Baha'is, like other human beings, sometimes have a tendency to cling tenaciously to one Text or one understanding of the Texts and to overlook the significance of other passages of the Writings." (From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice)

"This is a realm of knowledge in which poetry, analogy, hyperbole and paradox are to be expected; a realm in which the Manifestations themselves speak with many voices." (From a letter on behalf of the Universal House of Justice)

"... statements referring to Baha'u'llah in such exalted terms as 'the Heavenly Father', 'Jehovah', 'the Speaker on Sinai', 'the One through Whom all Revelations were sent down', all refer to the Holy Spirit or the Most Great Spirit which animated Baha'u'llah, and not to His Person." (From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice)