

# An Organic Order: Approaching the Philosophy of Bahá'u'lláh

Systematizing the Principles of a New World Order




Based on the writings of Roger Coe


*“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.” — Bahá'u'lláh*

# The First Word and the New Creation

## Concept

The Bahá'í Faith is not merely a set of laws, but a reordering of the “realities of all created things.” When the ‘First Word’ proceeded from the mouth of the Manifestation, the equilibrium of the universe was deranged.

 **Revolutionized Reality:** The Revelation has “shaken, divided, separated, scattered, combined and reunited” the entities of creation.

 **The Shift:** We are moving from a static, mechanical world order to one that is dynamic and organic.



“Through that Word the realities of all created things were shaken... disclosing, in both the contingent world and the heavenly kingdom, entities of a new creation.” — Bahá'u'lláh

# Philosophy as the Comprehension of Reality

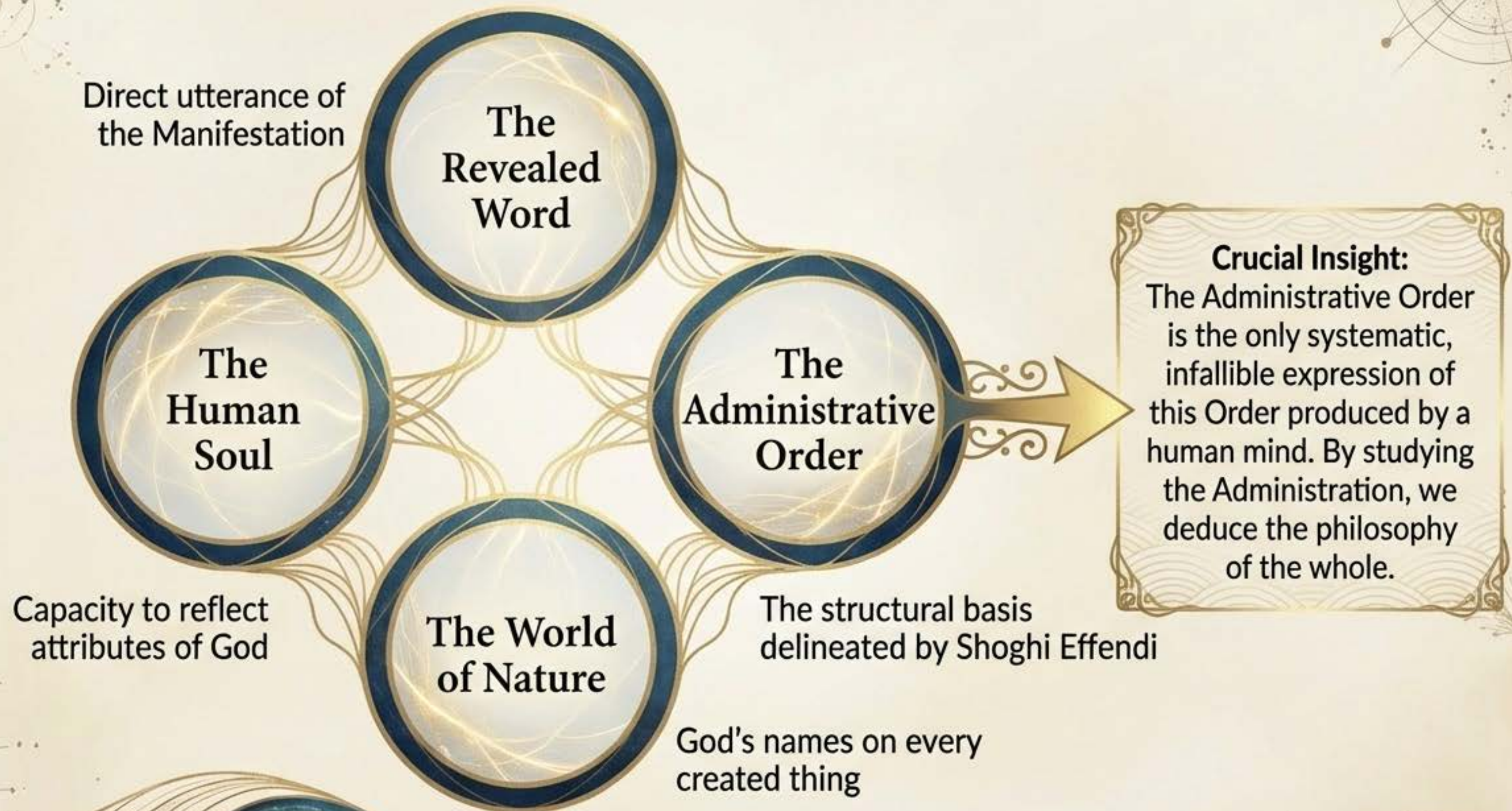
To understand this “new creation,” we require a new philosophy. This is not “metaphysical hair-splitting,” but rather “comprehending the reality of things as they exist.” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)

“Philosophy is the endeavour to frame a coherent, logical, necessary system of general ideas in terms of which every element of our experience can be interpreted.”

— Alfred North Whitehead

**Bahá’u’lláh** has propounded a ‘particular philosophy’ that is potent, sound, and **universal**. It is the task of the believers to systematize these principles to organize our political, economic, and scientific lives.” in Lato

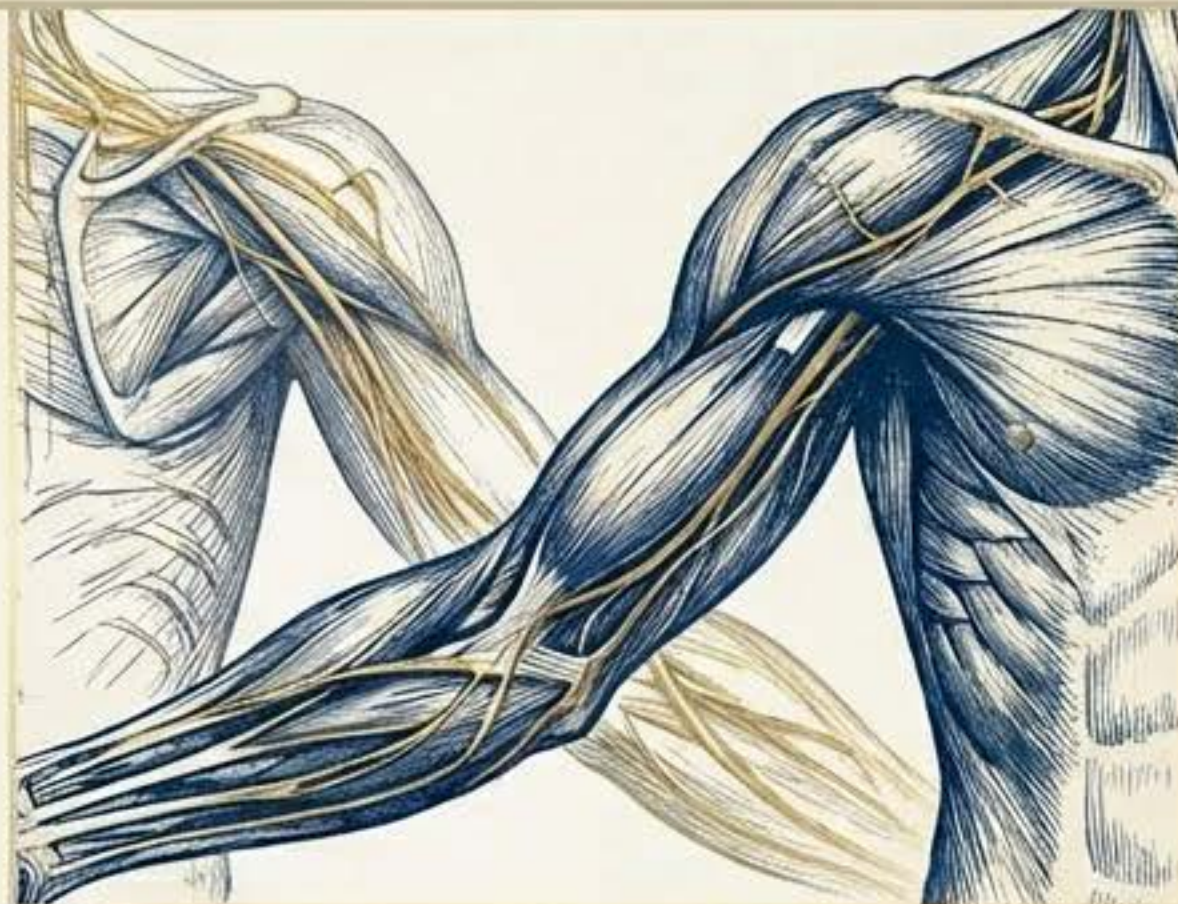
# Four Arenas of the New Order



# The Administrative Order is a Living Organism



Mechanical / Static.



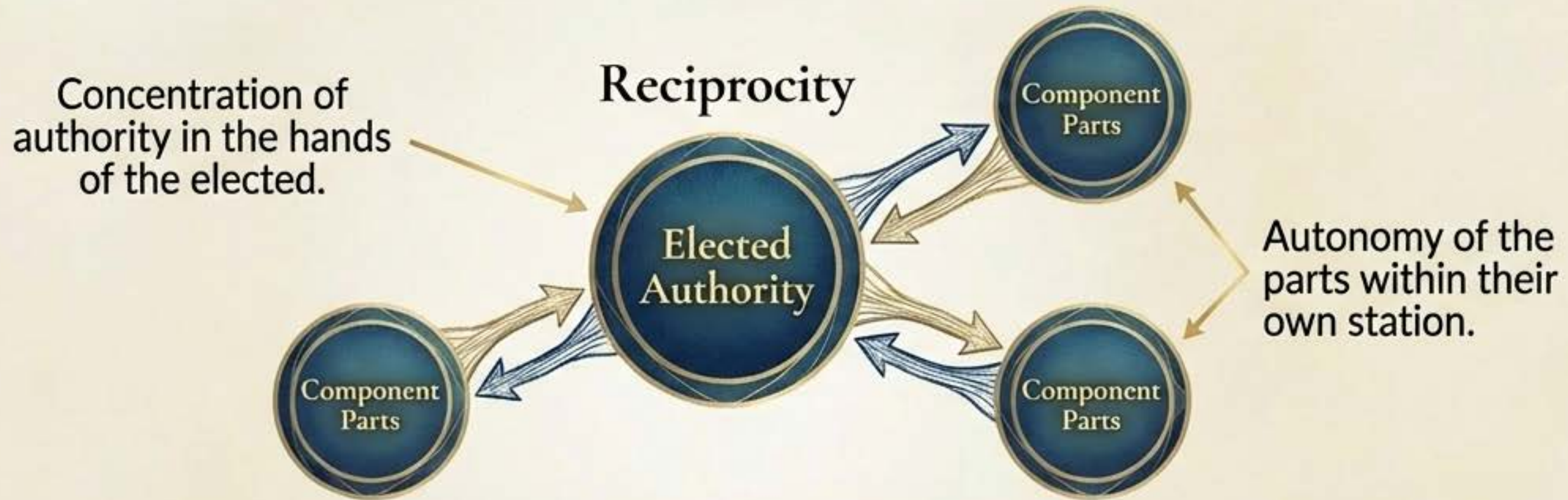
Organic / Dynamic.

**The Hermetic Principle:**  
“As above, so below.”  
The same laws that govern a biological organism govern the Bahá’í World Order.  
The Spirit of the Cause flows through the Perfected Body (institutions).

Shoghi Effendi explicitly identifies the “body of a man” as the “**true divine example**” of the **Administrative Order**. It is not a machine; it is a “living organism” and the “infallible Organ” for a Divine Purpose.

# Anatomy of the Order I: Unity

**Unity** is the “cornerstone.” In an organism, unity means “perfect reciprocity” between the parts, where the commands of the spirit are obeyed by the body.



**Decision Making:** The goal is unanimity (oneness of mind); majority vote is the fallback mechanism to prevent stagnation.

“No abiding benefit can be conferred upon the component parts if the general interests of the entity itself are ignored.” — Shoghi Effendi

# Anatomy of the Order II: Dynamism

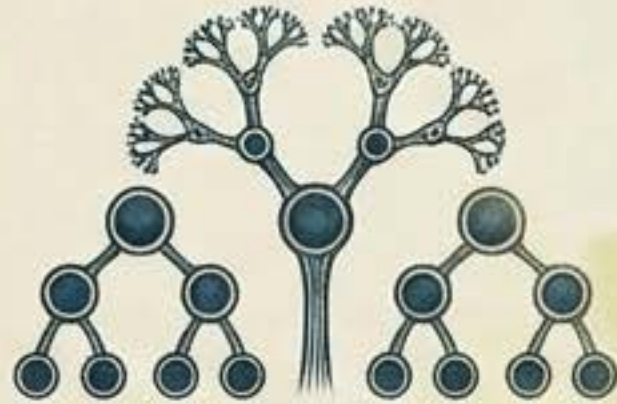
- Unlike **rigid mechanical structures**, the **Administrative Order** is characterized by “**elasticity**.” It expands and adapts to the needs of an **ever-changing society**.
- **Key Features:**
  - **1. Evolutionary Logic:** The Faith moves through organic stages: Infancy → Childhood → Maturity.
  - **2. Legislative Life:** The Universal House of Justice is both the initiator and the abrogator of its own laws, allowing the “organism” to respond to the exigencies of the time.
  - **3. Progress:** The machinery is fashioned to incorporate whatever is necessary to keep the Faith in the “forefront of all progressive movements.”



# Anatomy of the Order III: System

The Order is a “**world-enfolding System.**” It relies on order, classification, and relationships.

## Hierarchy



Subsystems (Local Assemblies) exist within suprasystems (National Assemblies), preserving the integrity of each rank.

## Unity in Diversity



The watchword of the Order. It repudiates excessive centralization and uniformity.

## Scientific Method



The method of the Faith is “scientific,” relying on verification and the investigation of reality.

# The Blind Spot: Old Minds in a New World



*“Ye are all as **fishes**, moving in the waters of the sea... and yet asking what it is on which ye depend.” — The Báb*

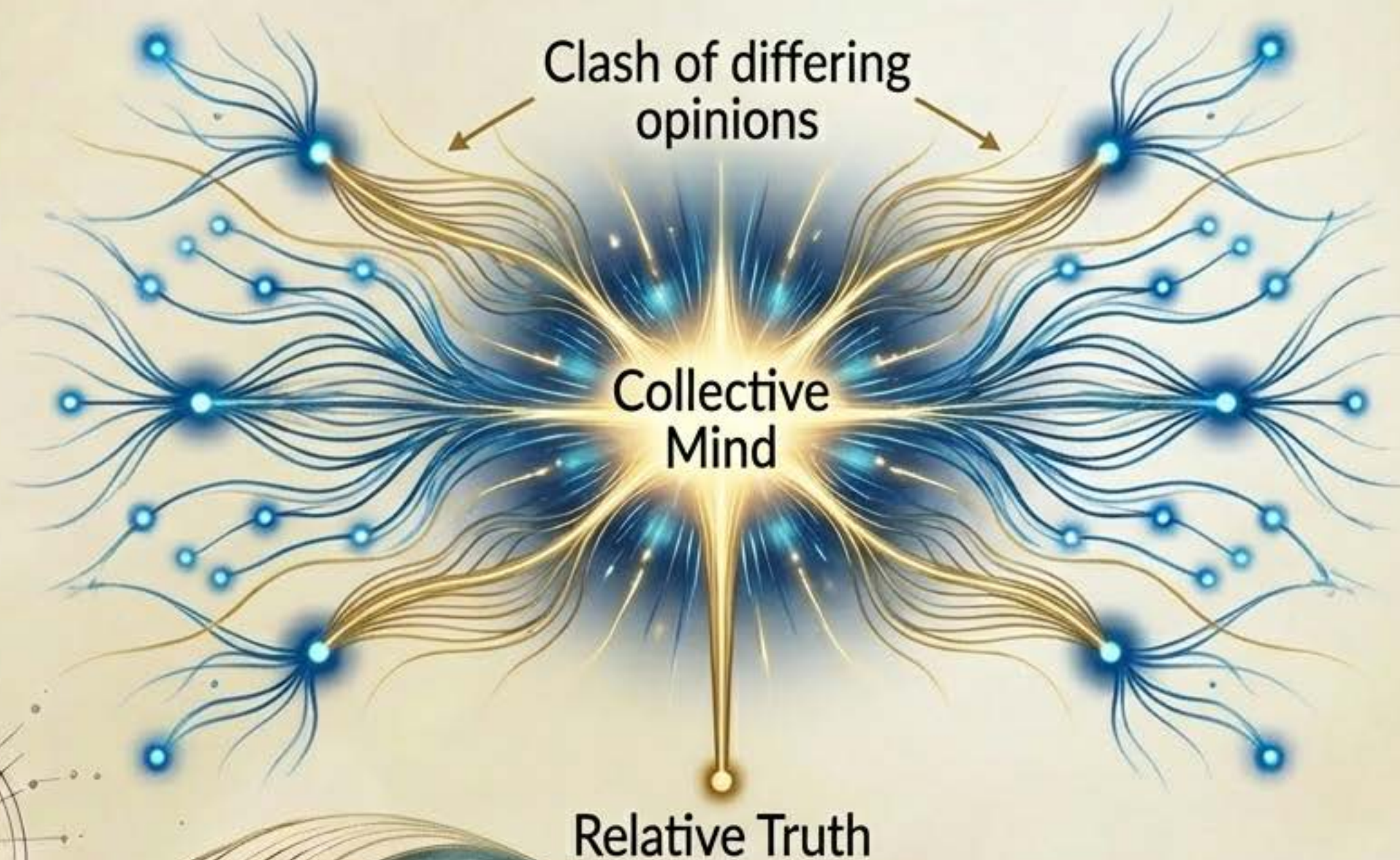


We are trying to perceive the **“New Order”** through the **limiting lenses** of the **“Old Order”**—our language, culture, and habits. Our current intellectual tools (subject/predicate language, mechanistic science) obscure the **process-oriented reality** of the Faith.

**The Challenge:** We must **consciously “weigh the Book with the Book”** (Bahá’u’lláh) rather than weighing the Revelation with our current limited standards.

# The Nervous System: Consultation

Consultation is the “**bedrock of this unique order.**”  
It is the method for the investigation of truth.



## Process over Product

- Truth is found through the clash of differing opinions.
- Individual minds merge to form a “collective mind.”
- **Spiritual Requisites:** Purity of motive, radiance of spirit, and detachment are functional requirements for the system to work.

# The Lifeblood: Communication & Technology



“An organic system relies on the flow of information.  
“Communication in society is the cement which binds its fabric together” (Norbert Wiener).

## Cybernetic Parallels

- **Feedback Loops:** The system requires accurate feedback (news, reports) to maintain equilibrium.
- **Technology:** Satellites and computers are the physical manifestation of the promise of unity, allowing the ‘Nerve Center’ (World Centre) to coordinate the global body.
- **Goal:** A mechanism functioning with ‘marvellous swiftness and perfect regularity.’

# The Cellular Level: Intimacy & Transformation



- The efficacy of the institutions depends on the spiritual health of the individuals (the cells). This requires **'Intimacy'**—the souls coming to know and trust one another.
  - **The Dust on the Mirror:** Oppression and materialism act as 'dust' preventing the reflection of the spirit.
  - **The Solution:** We must create environments of modeled after 'Abdu'l-Bahá. By listening without resistance or argument, we allow souls to be 'recreated' and the dust to be cleared. **'non-judgmental listening'**

# The Task of the Learned

The philosophy of the Order is not fully explicated in the texts; it must be deduced by the believers.

“Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words... and discover all the pearls of wisdom.” – Bahá’u’lláh

- **Correlate** the philosophy of the Faith with the sciences and arts.
- **Deduce** the ‘subtle mysteries.’
- **Organize** political, economic, and scientific life according to the new Divine Standard.

# Building the Superstructure: The World Commonwealth



We are the “**champion-builders**” of this organic structure. The administrative work we do today—however mundane it seems—is laying the ‘**structural basis**’ for the Golden Age.

The **Administrative Order** is the nucleus and pattern of the future World Order. By aligning our current systems with these organic principles, we are constructing the vessel for the ‘**Most Great Peace.**’