

Bahá'u'lláh's References to The Next Manifestation of God

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What should be our attitude towards the Next Manifestation of God?

Bahá'u'lláh Says:

“Beseech thou God, the True One, that He may graciously shield the followers of this revelation from the idle fancies and corrupt imaginings of such as belong to the former faith, and may not deprive them of the effulgent splendours of the day-star of true unity.”

(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, Wilmette, viii, 51)

He doeth whatsoever He Willeth...

“Consider thou the Day of Resurrection...Consider thou the Revelation of the Point of the Bayan -- exalted is His glory. He pronounced the First One to believe in Him to be Muhammad, the Messenger of God. Doth it beseem a man to dispute with Him by saying that this man is from Persia, the Other from Arabia, or this one was called Husayn while the other bore the name of Muhammad? Nay, I swear by God's holy Being, the Exalted, the Most Great. Surely no man of intelligence and insight would ever pay attention unto limitations or names, but rather unto that with which Muhammad was invested, which was none other than the Cause of God... This station is sanctified from every limitation or name, and naught can be seen therein but God, the One, the Peerless, the All-Knowing.

Know thou moreover that in the Day of Revelation were He to pronounce one of the leaves* to be the manifestation of all His excellent titles, unto no one is given the right to utter why or wherefore, and should one do so he would be regarded as a disbeliever in God and be numbered with such as have repudiated His Truth.”

Súriy-i-Vafa(Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust,1997), p. 185.

*women

There is no Record of a Prophet Similar in Station To Bahá'u'lláh

“Regarding your questions: There is no record in history, or in the teachings, of a Prophet similar in station to Bahá'u'lláh having lived 500,000 years ago.

There will, however, be one similar to Him in greatness after the lapse of 500,000 years, but we cannot say definitely that His Revelation will be inter-planetary in scope. We can only say that such a thing may be possible. What Bahá'u'lláh means by His appearance in ‘other worlds’ He has not defined, as we could not visualize them in our present state, hence He was indefinite, and we cannot say whether He meant other planets or not....”

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, December 24, 1941)

The proof of The Next Manifestation

“Ere this Dispensation, verses alone had been singled out as a testimony unto all people. Such hath been Our bidding in all the Books of old. In this Revelation, however, and as a token of Our grace unto men, all the mighty signs, the conclusive proofs, the wondrous verses, the great evidences and the divine tokens have been sent down.

Hereafter, it is in God's hands to decide upon the testimony of the Manifestations to come. Erelong will He set down His command in His Tablets. We, verily, rule over all things and all affairs are within the grasp of Our might. We do as we will, and We ordain whatsoever We please. God, glorified be His remembrance, hath willed that, in this Dispensation, many a sincere believer who hath wholly turned unto Him shall give utterance to verses.

Therefore shall We ordain the proof of the next Manifestation to be of a different nature, lest that he who produceth the verses may swell with pride before God, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling, the Almighty.”

Má'idíy-i-Ásmání, vol. 4, pp. 92–94.

Fears for Next Manifestation

“As to the meaning of the quotation, ‘My fears are for Him Who will be sent down unto you after Me’, this refers to the Manifestation Who is to come after a thousand or more years, Who like all previous Messengers of God will be subjected to persecutions, but will eventually triumph over them. For men of ill-will have been and will always continue to be in this world, unless mankind reaches a state of complete and absolute perfection—a condition which is not only improbable but actually impossible to attain.

The fundamental difference, however, between this Dispensation and all previous ones is this, that in this Revelation the possibility of permanent schism between the followers of the Prophet has been prevented through the direct and explicit instructions providing for the necessary instruments designed to maintain the organic unity of the body of the faithful.”

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, December 1, 1934, Bahá'í News, No. 89, p. 1, January 1935)

“The provenance, the authority, the duties, the sphere of action of the Universal House of Justice all derive from the revealed Word of Bahá’u’lláh which, together with the interpretations and expositions of the Centre of the Covenant and of the Guardian of the Cause . . . constitute the binding terms of reference of the Universal House of Justice and are its bedrock foundation. The authority of these Texts is absolute and immutable until such time as Almighty God shall reveal His new Manifestation to Whom will belong all authority and power.”

(Extracted from The Universal House of Justice’s Constitution)