

# **The Existence of Extraterrestrial Lifeforms In The Bahai' Writings**

*Compiled and edited by: Mohammad Norozi*

The Bahá'í Writings contain many statements that point to the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI) as well.

"Say: O leaders of religion! Weigh not the Book of God with such standards and sciences as are current amongst you, for the Book itself is the unerring Balance established amongst men." (The Kitab-i-Aqdas 56)

A clear logical deduction of the existence of ETI can be drawn from statements of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Briefly the argument runs thus, God has always existed. Manifestations have always existed Man is phenomenal on this Earth. There was a time when the Earth did not exist. There was never a time when man did not exist.

Another, indirect, statement comes from Bahá'u'lláh in the "Hidden Words":

"Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty."

Bahá'u'lláh says in Gleanings, "Know thou that every fixed star hath its own planets, and every planet its own creatures, whose number no man can compute."

Shoghi Effendi was asked about this quotation in 1937:

"Regarding the passage on p. 163 of the 'Gleanings'; the creatures which Bahá'u'lláh states to be found in every planet cannot be considered to be necessarily similar or different from human beings on this earth. Bahá'u'lláh does not specifically state whether such creatures are like or unlike us. He simply refers to the fact that there are creatures in every planet. It remains for science to discover one day the exact nature of these creatures." (From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, February 9, 1937)

Shoghi Effendi did make one unequivocal statement of ETI in the authorized Writings when he said, "'Abdu'l-Bahá stated there are other worlds than ours which are inhabited by beings capable of knowing God." (Light of Divine Guidance, Vol. 2, 82)

"...[W]e 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; Lights, #1555)

Nevertheless, Shoghi Effendi does not limit the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh to our star system alone. In answer to a letter from a Bahá'í written in 1938 he wrote:

"As to your question whether the power of Bahá'u'lláh extends over our solar system and to higher worlds; while the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, it should be noted, is primarily for this planet, yet the spirit animating it is all-embracing, and the scope therefore cannot be restricted or defined." (Lights, #1594)

## Life On Other Planets

Bahá'u'lláh, categorically stated that there is life on other planets:

"Know thou that every fixed star hath its own planets, and every planet its own creatures, whose number no man can compute."

"Verily I say, the creation of God embraceth worlds besides this world, and creatures apart from these creatures."

"O people! I swear by the one true God! ... Through His potency the Trees of Divine Revelation have yielded their fruits, every one of which hath been sent down in the form of a Prophet, bearing a Message to God's creatures in each of the worlds whose number God, alone, in His all-encompassing Knowledge, can reckon."

"Thou hast, moreover, asked Me concerning the nature of the celestial spheres... The learned men, that have fixed at several thousand years the life of this earth, have failed, throughout the long period of their observation, to consider either the number or the age of the other planets."

Cont...

"As to thy question concerning the worlds of God. Know thou of a truth that the worlds of God are countless in their number, and infinite in their range. None can reckon or comprehend them except God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

“The celestial orbs are each endowed with its own particular creation. This terrestrial sphere, which from a relative point of view is exceedingly small, is neither empty nor without purpose—how much less doth that apply to those brilliantly resplendent and massive bodies! In the Qur’án it is explicitly stated: “And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the moving things which He hath scattered over them both.”\* The phrase “over them both” is employed, not “over it,” clearly indicating that in both the heavens and the earth living creatures exist, for the term “moving thing” denoteth a being possessed of life and motion. Despite this clarity, none have apprehended the matter up to now.”

(A provisional translation by Adib Masumian. Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the original text of which has been published in *Amr va Khalq*, vol. 1, p. 145).

“As for your question about planets in which you ask if the planets that circle around fixed suns through the power of attraction are creations like terrestrial creations, know that in the explicit text of the Qur’an God set forth a clear, sufficient statement that will delight the ears that hear it. He said: “...the creation of the heavens and the earth and the creatures that He scattered among them” (Q 42:29). He explicitly states that there are beings in them that move according to the divine Will....As for the specific character of those beings—whether they are like terrestrial beings, or airy, fiery beings, or fiery beings—their natures differ and the balance of their elements diverge. The composition of those beings differs according to their essences.”

(A provisional translation by Will McCants. Abdu’l-Baha, quoted in Amr va Khalq, 1:145-6)

## Exploring Other Planets

Bahá'u'lláh in Kalamt-i-Firdawsiyyih (Words of Paradise) also foresaw rapid technological developments which would make possible things of which few had even dreamt:

"Strange and astonishing things exist in the earth but they are hidden from the minds and the understanding of men. These things are capable of changing the whole atmosphere of the earth and their contamination would prove lethal. Great God! We have observed an amazing thing. Lightning or a force similar to it is controlled by an operator and moveth at his command. Immeasurably exalted is the Lord of Power Who hath laid bare that which He purposed through the potency of His weighty and invincible command."

Regardless of nature of ETI Bahá'u'lláh (Arabic Hidden Words, #40) reminds us all are bound by the same spiritual law:

**O SON OF MAN! Wert thou to speed through the immensity of space  
and traverse the expanse of heaven, yet thou wouldst find no rest  
save in submission to Our command and humbleness before Our  
Face.**