

The teachings of the Founders of the world's religions have inspired breath-taking achievements in literature, architecture, art, and music. They have fostered the promotion of reason, science, and education.

Their moral principles have been translated into universal codes of law, regulating and elevating human relationships.

These uniquely endowed individuals are referred to as "Manifestations of God" in the Bahá'í writings, and include (among others) Krishna, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh.

History provides countless examples of how these Figures have awakened in whole populations capacities to love, to forgive, to create, to dare greatly, to overcome prejudice, to sacrifice for the common good, and to discipline the impulses of humanity's baser instincts.

These achievements can be recognized as the common spiritual heritage of the human race.

Bahá'u'lláh—as the latest in the series of divinely inspired moral educators who have guided humanity from age to age—has proclaimed that humanity is now approaching its long-awaited stage of maturity:

unity at the global level of social organization.

He provides a vision of the oneness of humanity, a moral framework, and teachings that, founded on the harmony of science and religion, directly address today's problems.

He points the way to the next stage of human social evolution.

He offers to the peoples of the world a unifying story consistent with our scientific understanding of reality.

He calls on us to recognize our common humanity,

to see ourselves as members of one family, to end estrangement and prejudice, and to come together. By doing so, all peoples and every social group can be protagonists in shaping their own future, and, ultimately, a just and peaceful global civilization

