

The Order of Bahá'u'lláh

Its diverse manifestations as outlined by Shoghi Effendi in *God Passes By* (pp 25-6)

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Order – A unity of diverse or differentiated elements focused around a common homeostatic equilibrium and balance - a System, an organized scheme uniting various entities. Characterized by wholeness, integration, cohesion and patterned constancy and change persisting through time and development. In general, systems in nature, while being a “whole” are integral subsystems of a more general system as well as being composed/comprised of lower level systems – systems within systems within systems.

Order of Bahá'u'lláh – The new pattern of being and creation arising out of the Primal Will, the Logos, the First Word from the mouth of Bahá'u'lláh. The Word that shook, divided, separated and scattered all things, then combined and reunited them revealing entities of a new creation with a new equilibrium and balance. The vibratory spirit that dwells in the innermost reality of all created things. Announced by the Báb, formulated into a System by Bahá'u'lláh, its Features delineated by ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, its Structure, Foundation and Framework erected as its nucleus and pattern in the Administrative Order, and its Superstructure destined to evolve into the Bahá'í World Commonwealth in the Golden Age.

Administrative Order – The “structural expression of the Features” of the “System” of the Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The framework and foundation of the social order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. The channel of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh through which the matrix of the Order is evolved from the spiritual impulse, expanded and developed out into the contingent world, evolving towards the enfoldment of the whole of humankind in an organic and spiritual unity.

New World Order – The inner and outer expression of the Order of Bahá'u'lláh as it evolves out into the world of being, a new paradigm and order juxtaposed against the old world order as it existed in the previous Dispensation with residuals that persist as the skeleton of the old order decays and disintegrates.

Bahá'í World Commonwealth – The “superstructure” of the Order of Bahá'u'lláh that will evolve and emerge out of the matrix and framework of the Administrative Order in the Golden Age of the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh. The collective of nations united in common adherence to the Law of Bahá'u'lláh.

World Order of Bahá'u'lláh – The all-embracing Order of Bahá'u'lláh as manifested in the contingent world – from the vibration in the innermost reality of all created things through to the Bahá'í World Commonwealth of the future that embraces all humankind, ultimately ensuring the spiritual and organic unity of the whole body of nations.