



## TO UNDERSTAND THE STATION OF THE BÁB

# THE ISLAMIC PROPHECIES PREDICTING THE COMING OF THE BÁB AND DESCRIBING HIS STATION

**SPIRITUAL QUALITIES RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC:  
DETERMINATION, EXCELLENCE, FAITHFULNESS, PRAYERFULNESS**

Say: O people of the earth! Behold this flamelike Youth that speedeth across the limitless profound of the Spirit, heralding unto you the tidings: “Lo: the Lamp of God is shining,” and summoning you to heed His Cause which, though hidden beneath the veils of ancient splendour, shineth in the land of Iraq above the day-spring of eternal holiness.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 147

Shoghi Effendi wishes me also to express his deep-felt appreciation of your intention to study the Qur'án. The knowledge of this revealed holy Book is, indeed, indispensable to every Bahá'í who wishes to adequately understand the writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi,  
*The Importance of Deepening our Knowledge and Understanding of the Faith*, p. 38

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## Resource Pages

### Some Prophecies of Islam

Qur'án 11:102-7: ...In that is a Sign for those who fear the penalty of the Hereafter: that is a Day for which mankind will be gathered together: that will be a Day of Testimony. Nor shall We delay it but for a term appointed. The day it arrives, no soul shall speak except by His leave: of those [gathered] some will be wretched and some will be blessed.

Qur'án 50:20: And the Trumpet shall be blown: that will be the Day whereof Warning [had been given]. And there will come forth every soul: with each will be an [angel] to drive, and an [angel] to bear witness.

Qur'án 39:68-69: And there shall be a blast on the Trumpet, and all who are in the Heaven and all who are on the earth shall expire, save those whom God shall vouchsafe to live. Then shall there be another blast on it, and lo! arising they shall gaze around them: and the earth shall shine with the light of her Lord.

Qur'án 7:30: He will return you (on the Day of Judgment) reverted back to when you were first created. A section guided, and a section will go astray.

Qur'án 43:61: And [Jesus] shall be a Sign [for the coming of] the Hour of Judgment: therefore have no doubt about the [Hour], but follow ye Me: this is a Straight Way.

Qur'án 7:32: Every nation hath its set time. And when their time is come, they shall not retard it an hour; and they shall not advance it.

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**Set Time:** According to Muhammad, He left two legacies to His followers -- "the Book of God and My Descendants." The first period in the Islamic cycle was the actual ministry of the Seal of the Prophets and the twelve Imams who were His descendants. The second period of the Islamic cycle was a determined time for the people to whom His Revelation had been sent: "From the Heaven to the Earth He governeth all things: hereafter shall they come up to him on a day whose length shall be a thousand of such years as ye reckon."

(Qur'án 32:4) The last of the Imams passed away in the year 260 AH. The lunar year of 1260 AH (260 + 1000) is 1844 of the solar Christian calendar, and it corresponds with the Biblical prophecy of Revelation 11:3. 1260 AH is also exactly 2300 years from the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem, as foretold in Daniel 8:14 of the Old Testament.

**A Book for Each Age:** It was revealed in the Súrih of the Counsel that Islamic laws are as those given to Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. Although this clarifies that religion is one, it is apparent that the laws do change from one Revelation to another. The laws of the Torah, the Bible, and the Qur'án are not all the same. God promised in the Qur'án that He would judge on the Day of Resurrection concerning matters of difference (Qur'án 22:68), and revealed: "Whatever verses we cancel, or cause thee to forget, we bring a better or its like. Knowest thou not that God hath power over all things?" (Qur'án 2:100) In the early period of the Bahá'í Faith, which began in 1844, The Báb (the "Gate") not only declared that his mission was to proclaim the imminent advent of "He Whom God will make Manifest," but wrote the first of the Faith's divinely inspired Books, the Bayán. "O people of the Bayán! Those who embrace the Truth must turn unto Me, as ordained in the Book and divine guidance will be vouchsafed to whosoever attaineth My presence." (~ The Báb)

See also *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, p. 59-60

# TOPIC: THE ISLAMIC PROPHECIES PREDICTING THE COMING OF THE BÁB AND DESCRIBING HIS STATION

## Prophecies Explained

### Prophecy

O the misery of men! No Messenger cometh unto them but they laugh Him to scorn.

Qur'an 36:30

Each nation hath plotted darkly against their Messenger to lay violent hold on Him, and disputed with vain words to invalidate the truth.

Qur'an 40:5

### Explanation

Not one single Manifestation of Holiness hath appeared but He was afflicted by the denials, the repudiation, and the vehement opposition of the people around Him.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 4

### Prophecy

...The sun [shall] be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken....

Matthew 24:29

### Explanation

...The terms "sun," "moon," and "stars" primarily signify the Prophets of God, the saints, and their companions, those Luminaries, the light of Whose knowledge hath shed illumination upon the worlds of the visible and the invisible.

In another sense, by these terms is intended the divines of the former Dispensation, who live in the days of the subsequent Revelations, and who hold the reins of religion in their grasp. If these divines be illumined by the light of the latter Revelation they will be acceptable unto God, and will shine with a light everlasting. Otherwise, they will be declared as darkened, even though to outward seeming they be leaders of men....

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 35-6

### Prophecy

Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven...

Matthew 24:29-30

### Explanation

As to the words—"Immediately after the oppression of those days"—they refer to the time when men shall become oppressed and afflicted, the time when the lingering traces of the Sun of Truth and the fruit of the Tree of knowledge and wisdom will have vanished from the midst of men, when the reins of mankind will have fallen into the grasp of the foolish and ignorant, when the portals of divine unity and understanding—the essential and highest purpose in creation—will have been closed, when certain knowledge will have given way to idle fancy, and corruption will have usurped the station of righteousness. Such a condition as this is witnessed in this day when the reins of every community have fallen into the grasp of foolish leaders, who lead after their own whims and desire.... What "oppression" is more grievous than that a soul seeking the truth, and wishing to attain unto the knowledge of God, should know not where to go for it and from whom to seek it? For opinions have sorely differed, and the ways unto the attainment of God have multiplied. This "oppression" is the essential feature of every Revelation. Unless it cometh to pass, the Sun of Truth will not be made manifest. For the break of the morn of divine guidance must needs follow the darkness of the night of error.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 29-31

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### Prophecy

When the heaven shall be cloven asunder...  
Qur'an 82:1

### Explanation

By "heaven" is meant the heaven of divine Revelation, which is elevated with every Manifestation, and rent asunder with every subsequent one. By "cloven asunder" is meant that the former Dispensation is superseded and annulled.  
Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 44

### Prophecy

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.  
Matthew 24:31

### Explanation

And now, concerning His words: "And He shall send His angels...." By "angels" is meant those who, reinforced by the power of the spirit, have consumed, with the fire of the love of God, all human traits and limitations, and have clothed themselves with the attributes of the most exalted Beings and of the Cherubim.  
Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 78-9

### Prophecy

On the day when the heaven shall give out a palpable smoke, which shall enshroud mankind: this will be an afflictive torment.  
Qur'an 44:10

### Explanation

The symbolic term "smoke" denotes grave dissensions, the abrogation and demolition of recognized standards, and the utter destruction of their narrow-minded exponents. What smoke more dense and overpowering than the one which hath now enshrouded all the peoples of the world, which hath become a torment unto them, and from which they hopelessly fail to deliver themselves, however much they strive?  
Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 76-7

### Prophecy

On that day shall the heaven be cloven by the clouds.  
Qur'an 25:25

What can such expect but that God should come down to them overshadowed with clouds?  
Qur'an 2:210

### Explanation

These "clouds" signify, in one sense, the annulment of laws, the abrogation of former Dispensations, the repeal of rituals and customs current amongst men, the exalting of the illiterate faithful above the learned opposers of the Faith. In another sense, they mean the appearance of that immortal Beauty in the image of mortal man, with such human limitations as eating and drinking, poverty and riches, glory and abasement, sleeping and waking, and such other things as cast doubt in the minds of men, and cause them to turn away. All such veils are symbolically referred to as "clouds."... Even as the clouds prevent the eyes of men from beholding the sun, so do these things hinder the souls of men from recognizing the light of the divine Luminary.  
Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 71-2

### Prophecy

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together.  
Isaiah 65:25

### Explanation

Such is the binding force of the Word of God, which uniteth the hearts of them that have renounced all else but Him, who have believed in His signs.... Furthermore, how numerous are those peoples of divers beliefs, of conflicting creeds, and opposing temperaments, who, through the reviving fragrance of the Divine springtime, breathing from the Ridvan of God, have been arrayed with the new robe of divine Unity, and have drunk from the cup of His singleness! This is the significance of the well-known words: "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together."

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 112-3

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## Prophecy

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.  
Matthew 5:5

And We desire to show favour to those who were brought low in the land, and to make them spiritual leaders among men, and to make of them Our heirs.  
Qur'an 28:5

## Explanation

It hath been witnessed in this day how many of the divines, owing to their rejection of the Truth, have fallen into, and abide within, the uttermost depths of ignorance, and whose names have been effaced from the scroll of the glorious and learned. And how many of the ignorant who, by reason of their acceptance of the Faith, have soared aloft and attained the high summit of knowledge, and whose names have been inscribed by the Pen of Power upon the Tablet of divine Knowledge.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 146

## Prophecy

According to the tradition, Mufaddal asked Sadiq saying: "What of the sign of His manifestation, O my master?" He made reply: "In the year sixty, His Cause shall be made manifest, and His Name shall be proclaimed."

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 253-4

All the Imams were put to death except perhaps the last, who died as a child, in 260.... Then there was utter silence in Islam till the rise of the Báb in 1260. Hence the importance of the "Year Sixty."

Marzieh Gail, *Six Lessons on Islam*, p. 33

## Explanation

No sooner had that eternal Beauty revealed Himself in Shiraz, in the year sixty, and rent asunder the veil of concealment, than the signs of the ascendancy, the might, the sovereignty, and power, emanating from that Essence of Essences and Sea of Seas, were manifest in every land.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 234

## Prophecy

And if ye be in doubt as to that which We have sent down to Our Servant, then produce a Surah like it, and summon your witnesses, beside God, if ye are men of truth.

Qur'an 2:23

## Explanation

Behold, how lofty is the station, and how consummate the virtue, of these verses which He hath declared to be His surest testimony, His infallible proof, the evidence of His all-subduing power, and a revelation of the potency of His will. He, the divine King, hath proclaimed the undisputed supremacy of the verses of His Book over all things that testify to His truth.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 205

The Prophets "endowed with constancy," whose loftiness and glory shine as the sun, were each honoured with a Book which all have seen, and the verses of which have been duly ascertained. Whereas the verses which have rained from this Cloud of divine mercy have been so abundant that none hath yet been able to estimate their number. A score of volumes are now available. How many still remain beyond our reach! How many have been plundered and have fallen into the hands of the enemy, the fate of which none knoweth.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 216-7

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### Prophecy

Wish for death, if ye are men of truth.

Qur'an 2:94

### Proof

Consider these martyrs of unquestionable sincerity, to whose truthfulness testifieth the explicit text of the Book, and all of whom, as thou hast witnessed, have sacrificed their life, their substance, their wives, their children, their all, and ascended unto the loftiest chambers of Paradise. Is it fair to reject the testimony of these detached and exalted beings to the truth of this pre-eminent and glorious Revelation and to regard as acceptable the denunciations which have been uttered against this resplendent Light by this faithless people, who for gold have forsaken their faith, and who for the sake of leadership have repudiated Him Who is the First Leader of all mankind?

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 227

### Prophecy

...It is related in the "Biharu'l-Anvar," the "Avalim," and the "Yanbu" of Sadiq, son of Muhammad, that he spoke these words: "Knowledge is twenty and seven letters. All that the Prophets have revealed are two letters thereof. No man thus far hath known more than these two letters. But when the Qá'im shall arise, He will cause the remaining twenty and five letters to be made manifest."

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 243

### Explanation

Consider; He hath declared Knowledge to consist of twenty and seven letters, and regarded all the Prophets, from Adam even unto the "Seal," as Expounders of only two letters thereof and of having been sent down with these two letters. He also saith that the Qá'im will reveal all the remaining twenty and five letters. Behold from this utterance how great and lofty is His station!

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 243-4

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## Prophecies from Some of the World's Religions

ABRAHAM	I am the Almighty God; walk before Me and be thou perfect... And I will establish my Covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting Covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.	Genesis 17:1, 7
KRISHNA	Whenever spirituality decays and materialism is rampant, then... I Myself come forth. For the protection of the virtuous, for the destruction of evil-doers, and for establishing righteousness, I am born from age to age.	Bhagavad Gita IV 7, 8
MOSES	Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.	Deuteronomy 4:10
ZOROASTER	When a thousand two hundred and some years have passed from the inception of the religion of the Arabian and the overthrow of the kingdom of Iran and the degradation of the followers of My religion, a descendant of the Iranian kings will be raised up as a Prophet.	Dinkird
BUDDHA	I am not the first Buddha Who came upon the earth, nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will rise in the world, a Holy One, a supremely enlightened One, endowed with wisdom and goodness... knowing the universe, an incomparable Leader of men, a Master of angels and mortals. He will reveal to you the same eternal Truths that I have taught you. He will preach His religion, glorious at the goal, in the spirit, in the letter. He will proclaim a religious life, wholly perfect and pure; such as I now proclaim.	Digha Nikaya 111:75-6
CHRIST	I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you unto all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will shew you things to come.	John 16:12-13
MUHAMMAD	O children of Adam! There shall come to you Apostles from among yourselves, rehearsing My signs unto you; and whoso shall fear God and do good works, no fear shall come upon them, neither shall they be put to grief.	Qur'an 7:33
THE BĀB	The purpose underlying this Revelation, as well as those that preceded it, has... been to announce the advent of the Faith of Him Whom God will make manifest. ... The process of the rise and setting of the Sun of Truth will thus indefinitely continue—a process that hath no beginning and will have no end.	<i>Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 105</i>
BAHÁ'U'LLÁH	These sanctified Mirrors, these Day-Springs of ancient glory, are, one and all, the Exponents on earth of Him Who is the central Orb of the universe, its Essence and ultimate Purpose. From Him proceed their knowledge and power; from Him is derived their sovereignty.	<i>Glōnings from the Writings of Bāh'á'u'lláh, p. 47</i>

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### LIST OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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#### Stories & Articles:

*Brilliant Star*: "Prophets & Prophecies" Jan/Feb 85  
*The Covenant for Young People*, p. 8  
*The Dawn-Breakers (Nabil's Narrative)*, Introduction, pp. xxix-xxxii  
*Release the Sun*, pp. 12, 219-220

#### Music:

*Flight*, "The World is Ready For a Change"  
*Music from the Bahá'í World Congress*, "Expectation"  
*Special Times*, "Who is the Child?"  
*The Magic Bird*, "Behold"

#### Poetry:

*The Witness of Pebbles*, "Spendthrift"

#### List other favorite resources:

*Historical Dictionary of Islam*, Ludwig W. Adamec, Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2001



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