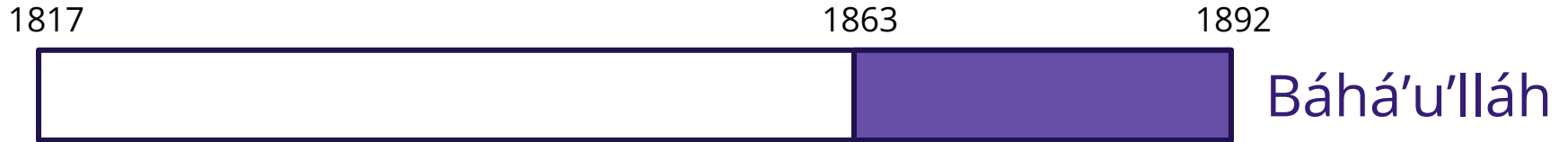
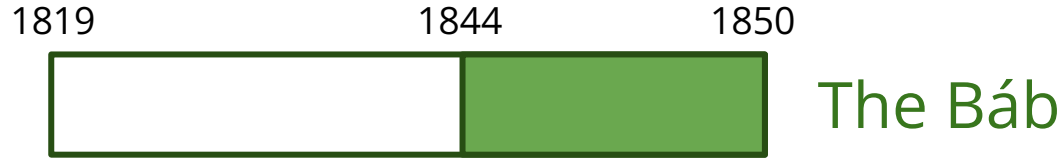


Harmony of Science & Religion

—
A Bahá'í Perspective

Brief Background



The first is the **independent investigation of truth**; for blind imitation of the past will stunt the mind. But once every soul inquireth into truth, society will be freed from the darkness of continually repeating the past.

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Outline

- **Science vs Religion**
- The “Baha’i” approach
- Investigating religion with science
- Tempering science with religion
- Going forward

What's the problem?



Examples of questions these methods answer

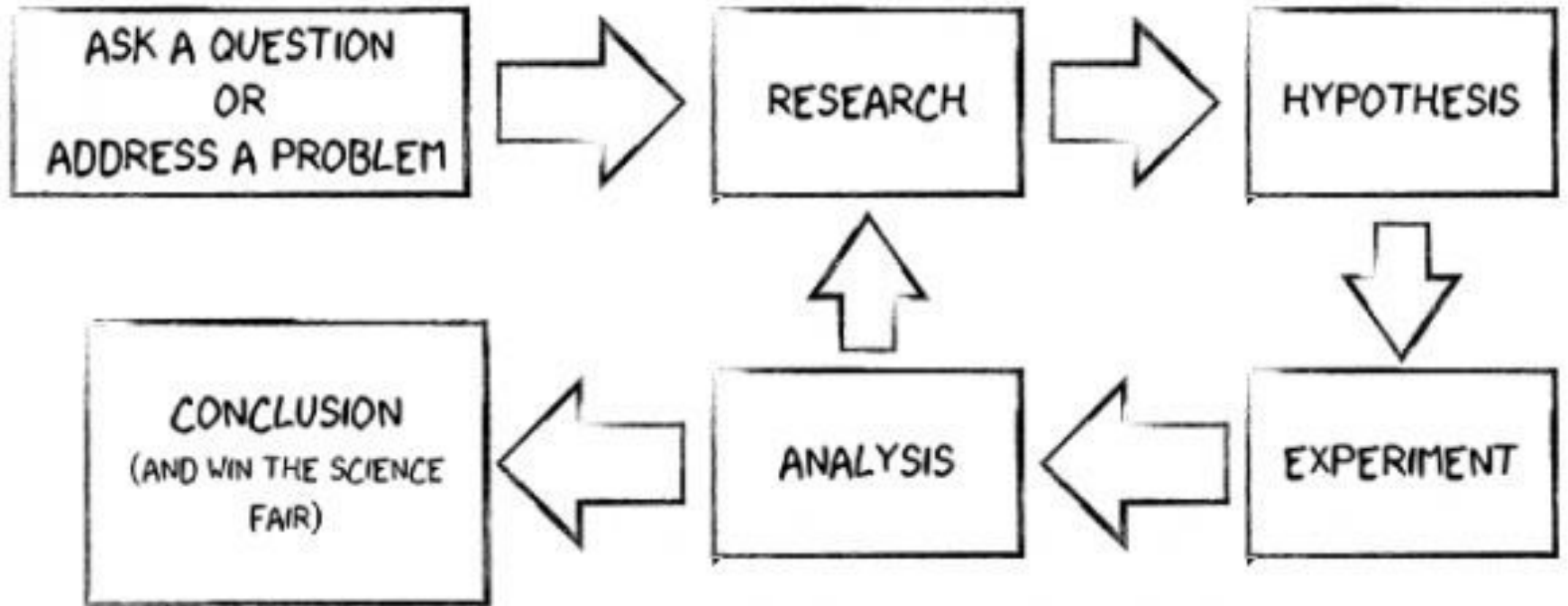
Science

- Why do things fall?
- How to live healthy lives?
- How to predict disasters?
- Where did we come from?

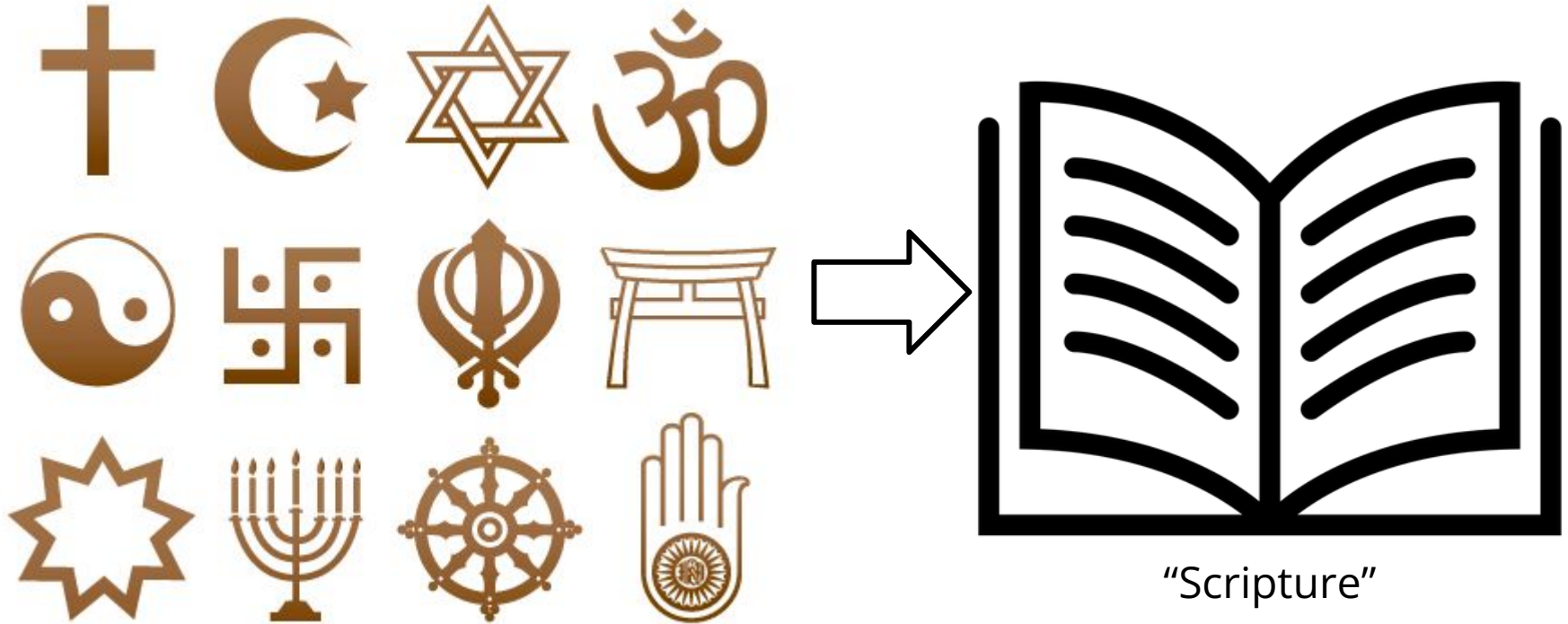
Religion

- What is the purpose of life?
- Life after death?
- The meaning of suffering?
- Existence of good and evil?

The Scientific Method



The Religious Method



Outline

- Science vs Religion
- **The “Baha’i” approach**
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- Going forward

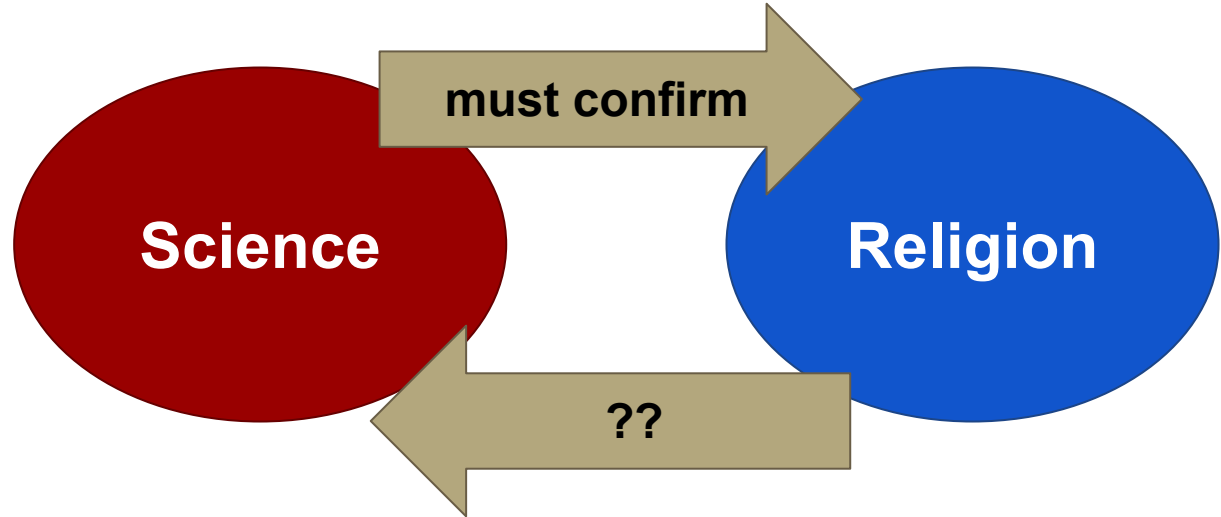
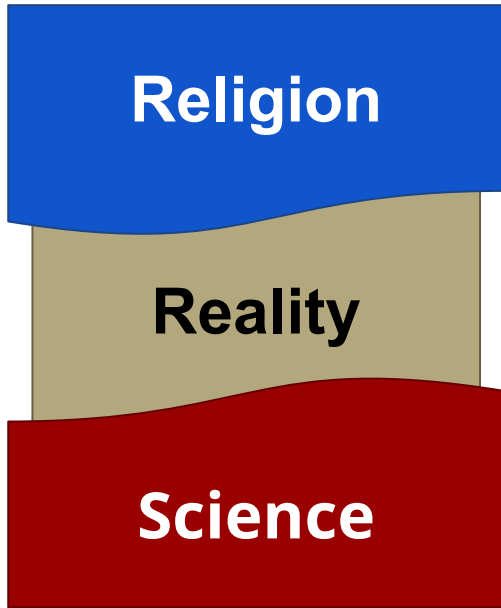
Furthermore, **religion must conform to reason and be in accord with the conclusions of science.** For religion, reason and science are realities; therefore, these three, being realities, must conform and be reconciled. A question or principle which is religious in its nature must be sanctioned by science. **Science must declare it to be valid, and reason must confirm it** in order that it may inspire confidence. If religious teaching, however, be at variance with science and reason, it is unquestionably **superstition.**

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Consider what it is that singles man out from among created beings, and makes of him a creature apart. Is it not **his reasoning power, his intelligence**? Shall he not make use of these in his study of religion? I say unto you: **weigh carefully** in the balance of **reason and science** everything that is presented to you as **religion**. If it passes this test, then **accept it, for it is truth!** If, however, it does not so conform, then **reject it, for it is ignorance!**

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

The Harmony of Science and Religion

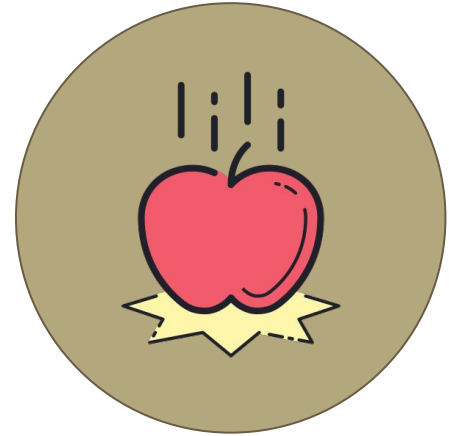
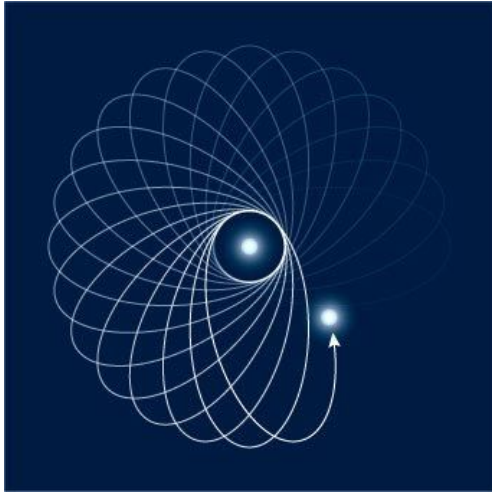
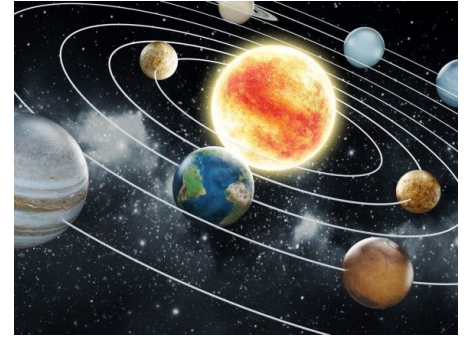


Outline

- Science vs Religion
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- Tempering science with religion
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The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the **duty** incumbent upon all to **investigate reality**. What does it mean to investigate reality? It means that man must forget all hearsay and examine truth himself, for he does not know whether statements he hears are in accordance with reality or not. **Wherever he finds truth or reality, he must hold to it**, forsaking, discarding all else; for outside of reality there is naught but superstition and imagination... **Reality or truth is one.**

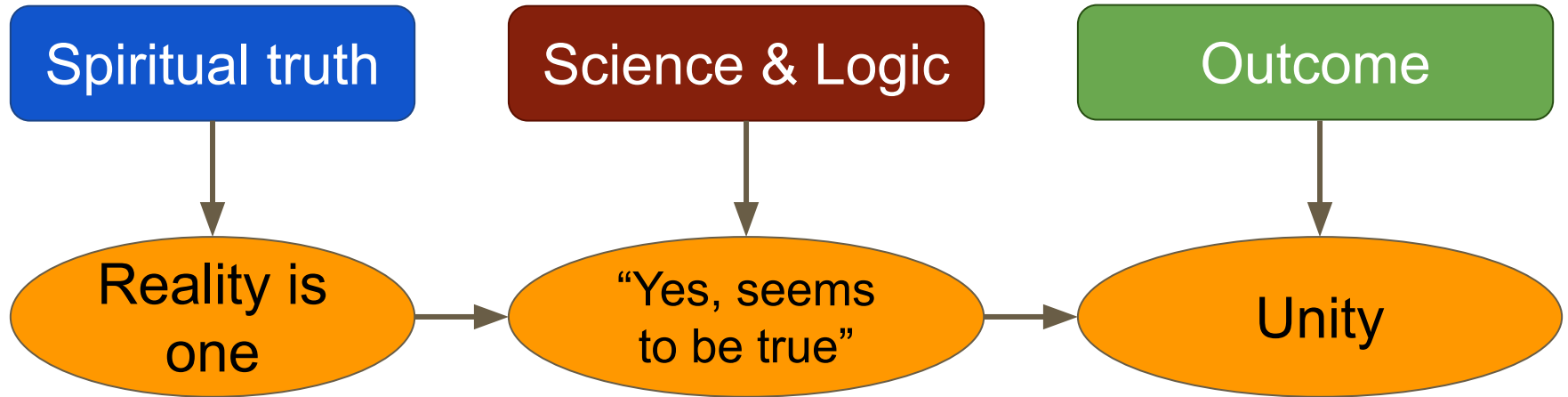
-'Abdu'l-Bahá



Reality or truth is one, yet there are many religious beliefs, denominations, creeds and differing opinions in the world today. **Why should these differences exist?** Because they do not investigate and examine the fundamental unity, which is one and unchangeable. If they **seek reality** itself, they will agree and **be united; for reality is indivisible and not multiple.**

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

What did we learn about reality?



Outline

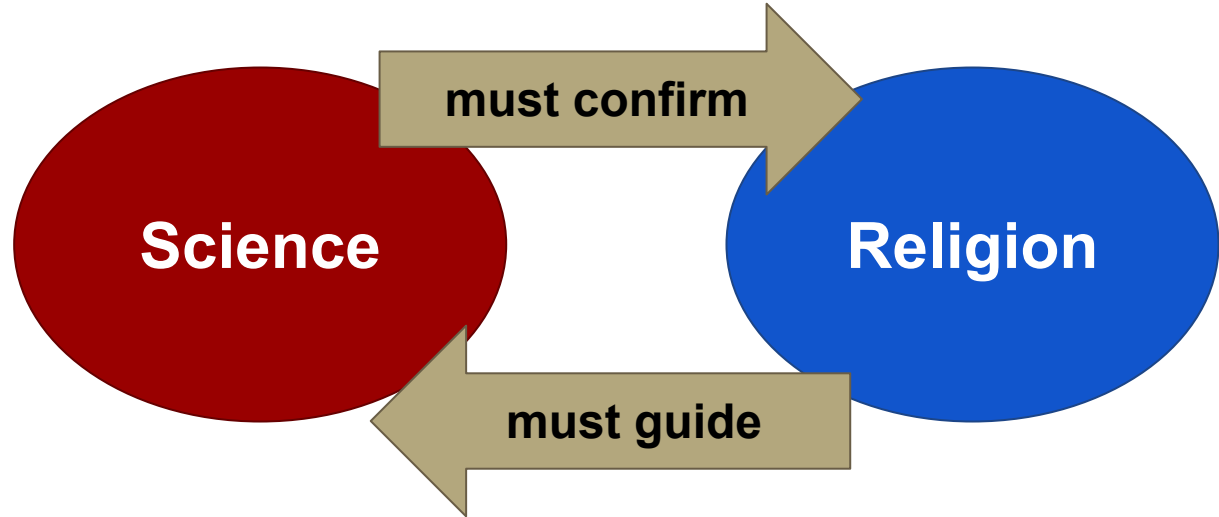
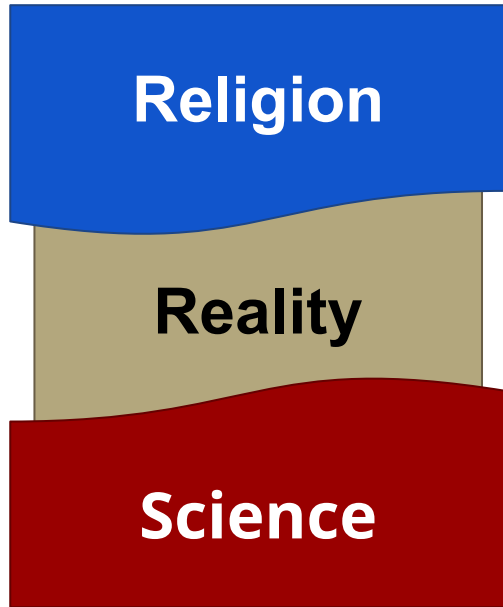
- Science vs Religion
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This endowment [scientific investigation] is **the most praiseworthy power of man**, for through its employment and exercise, the **betterment of the human race is accomplished**, the development of the virtues of mankind is made possible and the spirit and mysteries of God become manifest.

As material and physical sciences are taught here and are constantly unfolding in wider vistas of attainment, I am hopeful that **spiritual development may also follow** and keep pace with these outer advantages.

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

The Harmony of Science and Religion



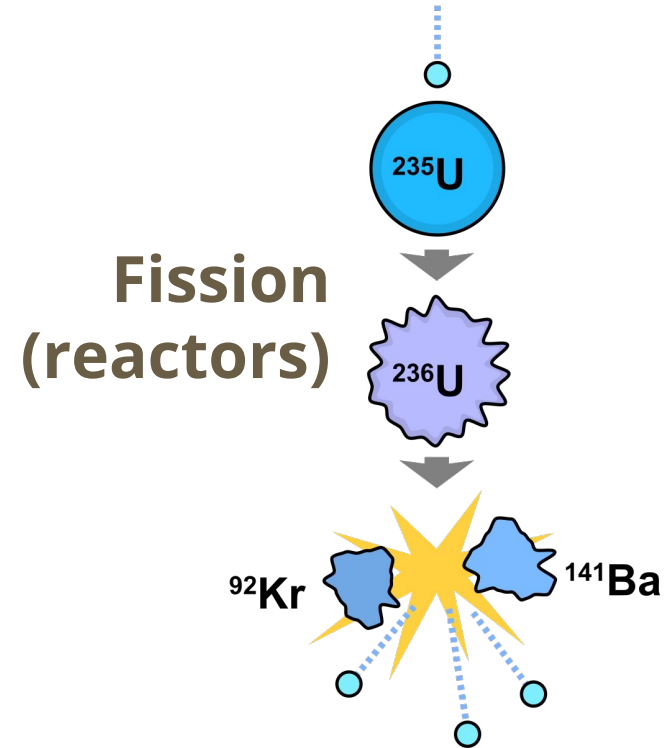
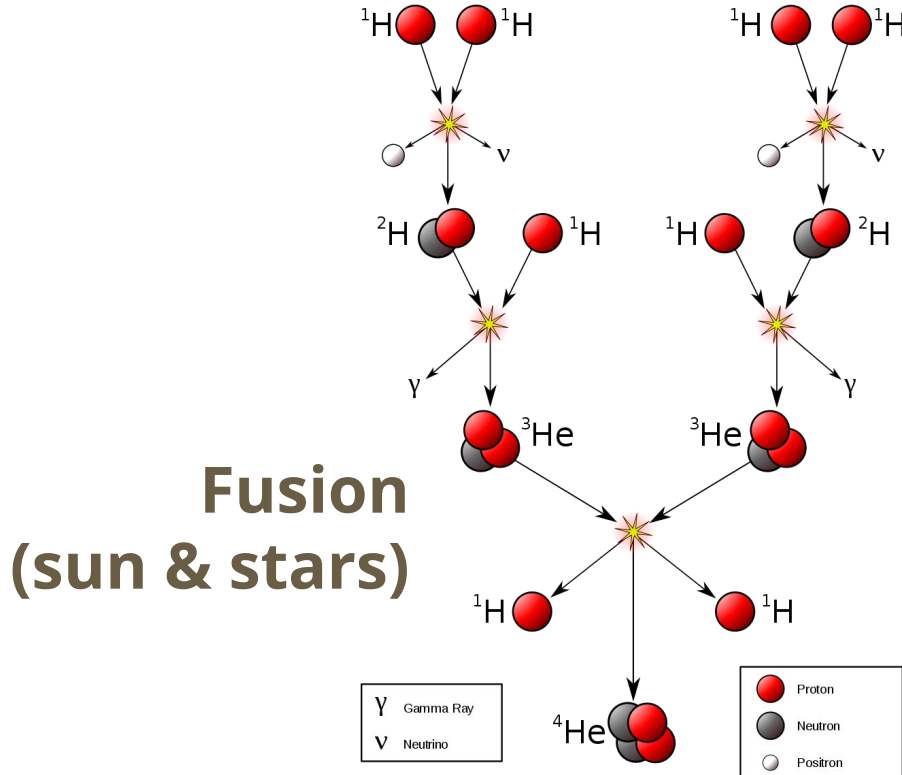
With **inward and outward eyes** he witnesseth the mysteries of resurrection in the realms of creation and the souls of men, and with a pure heart apprehendeth the divine wisdom in the endless Manifestations of God. In the ocean he findeth a drop, in a drop he beholdeth the secrets of the sea.

Split the atom's heart, and lo!

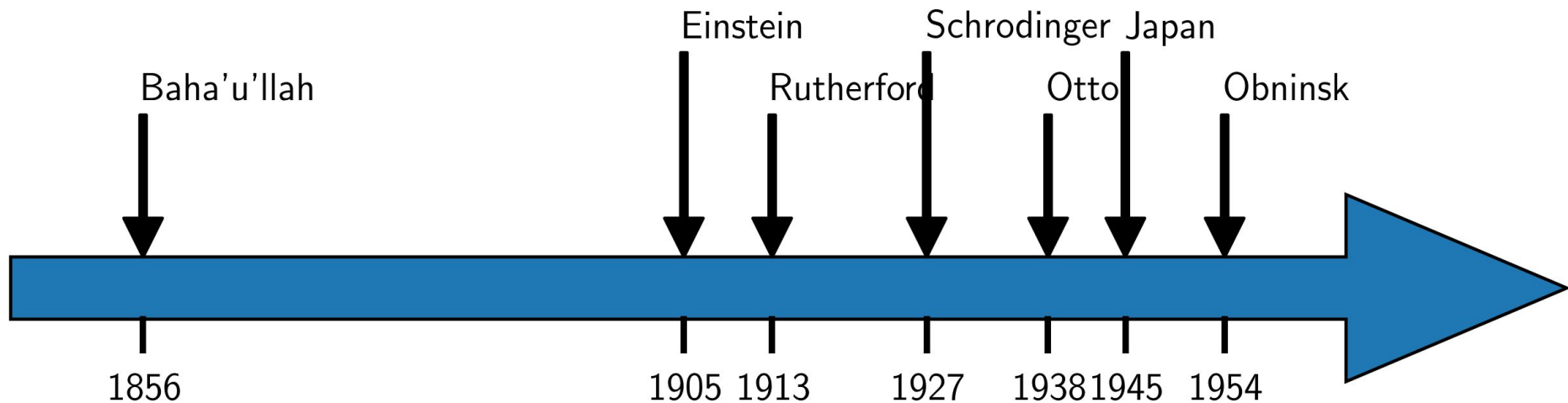
Within it thou wilt find a sun.

-Bahá'u'lláh

Nuclear energy



Spiritual development keeping pace with Science?



Outline

- Science vs Religion
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- **Going forward**

Among other teachings and principles Bahá'u'lláh counsels the **education of all members of society**. No individual should be denied or deprived of intellectual training, although each should receive according to capacity. None must be left in the grades of ignorance, for ignorance is a defect in the human world. **All mankind must be given a knowledge of science and philosophy**—that is, as much as may be deemed necessary. All cannot be scientists and philosophers, but **each should be educated** according to his needs and deserts.

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá