

# Reasons why do secular thinkers get distance from religion



# 1. A number of stories and philosophical issues written in the Holy Scriptures are not scientific.

**Bahá'í view:**

**We have to understand the style of Holy Scriptures. Holy Scriptures are not like academic textbooks.**

- The story of 'Adam and Eve'
- The story of creation in 7 days
- The concept of 'heaven and hell'
- The issue of 'life after death'
- The concept of 'Return'

**Problem of Reading Holy Scriptures literally**

## 2. Religion has become a tradition, leading to different forms of irrational superstition and extremism.

**Definition of tradition:** It is a mode of thought or behavior or custom followed by a group of people continuously from generation to generation.

- As a religion become obsolete, new social laws are necessary to adopt itself to the modern time.
- Different denominations would add new laws to a Faith which may contradict with each other.
- These are mainly social laws e.g. marriage, divorce, funerals, etc.

**Bahá'í view:**

- **Independent Investigation of Truth helps to eliminate contradictions.**
- **Universal Compulsory education**
- **The harmony between science and religion**
- **Progressive Revelation**

### 3. The concept of last in Scriptures is not scientific.

Last means: stop history, no more change, no action, the end of purpose, no possibility for further discussion, final.

#### **Bahá'í view:**

Religion has two parts:

1) **The universal** (or eternal or essential)

Truthfulness, honesty, trustworthiness, kindness,

2) **The social** (or temporary or non-essential)

Marriage, divorce, ceremonies

**The term 'LAST' is relevant to a specific 'time period' and a 'place'.**

**Progressive Revelation**

## 4. Lack of tolerance

*We are more tolerant today.*

*Progress has been made in stages:*

- 1867: Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh to kings and rulers of the time.
- 1893: 'Parliament of Religions'.
- 1948: The World Council of Churches'.
- 1960: Temple of Understanding or 'Interfaith'.
- 1970: The World Council of Religion and Peace (WCRP).
- 2018: Parliament of the world religions

**Bahá'í view:**

**'The tabernacle of unity hath been raised; regard ye not one another as strangers. Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch'**

**Baha'u'llah**

**5. Religions are a set of laws not suitable for the modern time.**

**Bahá'í view:**

The concept of progressive revelation

## 6. Existence of superstitions are not scientific

**Bahá'í view:**

**How to stop it?**

- Independent investigation of truth
- Compulsory universal education
- Harmony of science and religion



## 7. The role of religious leaders being unclear, and their interpretation of scriptures has created conflicts and separation among members.

### Bahá'í view:

The Bahá'í Faith is a religion without priest. The Bahá'í Institutions are in charge of the affairs of the Bahá'í community at 3 levels:

1. Local
2. National
3. International







**8. No distinction is made between religion and religious people.**

**Bahá'í view:**

Holy Scriptures are in agreement. It is the followers that distorted the religion.

## **9. Religions are a set of spiritual principles that cannot be measured.**

The claim of social scientists:

The market does not support spiritual principles and moral incentives because they are difficult to grasp and cannot be positioned into mathematical diagrams. Also, it cannot be measured, as people have to think beyond material gain.

**Religions are a set of spiritual principles that cannot be measured.**

Bahá'í view:

The Universal House of Justice refers to the practicality and measurability of spiritual principles:

**'The essential merit of spiritual principle is that it not only presents a perspective which harmonizes with that which is immanent in human nature, it also induces an attitude, a dynamic, a will, an aspiration, which facilitate the discovery and implementation of practical measures.'**

Universal House of Justice. *The Promise of World Peace*, part II.



*So powerful is the light of unity  
that it can illuminate  
the whole earth.*

*Bahá'u'lláh*

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