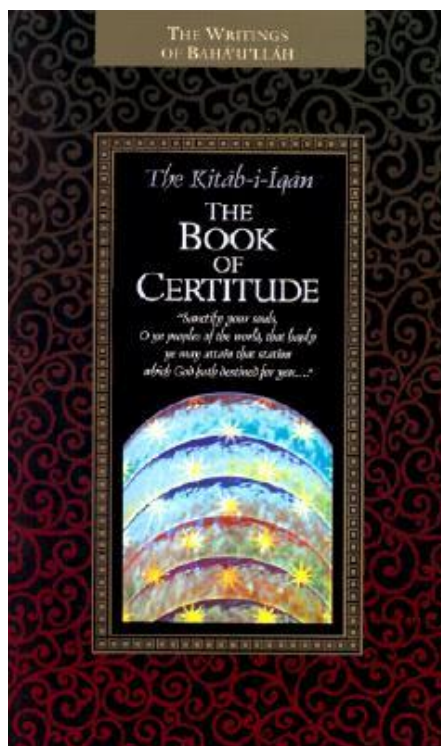




The Kitáb-i-Íqán: The Book of Certitude

Bahá'u'lláh , Shoghi Effendi (Translator)

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The Book of Certitude, by Bahá'u'lláh, author of the Bahá'í Revelation, is arguably one of the most important scriptural works in all of religious history. In it Baha'u'llah explains the underlying unity of the world's religions, describes the universality of the revelations humankind has received from the Prophets of God, explains their fundamental teachings, and elucidates allegorical passages from the New Testament and the Qur'an that have given rise to misunderstandings among religious leaders, practitioners, and the public. Written in the span of two days and two nights, The Book of Certitude is, in the words of its translator, Shoghi Effendi, the most important book written on the spiritual significance of the Bahá'í Faith.

The Kitáb-i-Íqán: The Book of Certitude Details

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From Reader Review The Kitáb-i-Íqán: The Book of Certitude for online ebook

Chloë says

Who am I to rate the Word of God.

Ian says

An enigmatic book written by the founder of the Baha'i faith, it claims to reveal symbolic meanings for theological concepts common to many of the Abrahamic religions. It also describes one of the key tenets of the Baha'is, namely that the founders of the major religions were all "manifestations of God" sent to facilitate the spiritual evolution of humanity. The audience for the book was mainly Islamic, so most of the scriptures cited are pertinent to Shi'a Islam, though it also cites some Christian scriptures and affirms their inspiration, an unusual belief for the time and place the book was written. Worth reading for those researching the background of the Baha'i faith.

Stephanie says

Really hard read to get through.

James says

Some really powerful and moving stuff here. Great food for thought and the soul.

Christopher says

pretty good. often good and inspiring. sometimes feels kind of rambling and repetitive. it WAS written in only two days by a man who claims to be the second coming of jesus, so i suppose that should be expected. but it does have pearls of wisdom, and i feel good when i read it.

Jonathan Widell says

The Book of Certitude is a reminder that Bahaism is also a Koranic religion. The pain which caused Bahauallah to write it is palpable on its pages but, in general, it has generated light instead of heat. The text is grace itself. The argument is subtle but simple: like the Bible, the Koran points to a faith that is missed by those who adhere to the literal interpretation of their holy book and go on to build a community around their traditions rather than keeping an open mind to the spiritual meaning of the revelation.

Ryan says

It's difficult to review a primary religious text. I can, however, attempt to give a taste of what the Kitab-i-Iqan seems to be about, from my perspective.

Bahá'u'lláh is attempting to found a new, syncretic religion that embraces the Abrahamic lineage. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, he claims, are all reflections of a single godhead, manifesting from time to time when necessary to stoke the flames of faith. Naturally, he claims that the Bahá'í Faith is the next step in this sequence.

Consider the Sun. Were it to say now, "I am the sun of yesterday," it would speak the truth. And should it, bearing the sequence of time in mind, claim to be other than the sun, it would still speak the truth.

The principle difficulty in this approach is overcoming the resistance of entrenched belief systems. Once established, a dogmatic religion cannot countenance a departure from its rule set without ceasing to exist by definition. Bahá'u'lláh spends some time discussing the difference between dogmatic belief versus a more nuanced attempt to appreciate the content of a spiritual teaching.

It's wonderfully written and poetic, though I often felt it probably lost something in the translation from Persian (my edition was translated by Shoghi Effendi).

Gail says

"Kitab-i-Iqan (the Book of Certitude) by Baha'u'llah. Baha'u'llah's Kitab-i-Iqan, revealed in 1861, is one of the "foremost" among the works of His Revelation, "unequalled by any work in the entire range of Baha'i literature, except the Kitab-i-Aqdas." The Iqan is the "most important book written on the spiritual significance of the Cause" and is unique in that "this Book alone" provides the basis for reconciling the followers of "the great religions of the world." Described by Baha'u'llah as the "lord of books," the Iqan "contains the basic tenets of the Faith" and "explains the attitude" of the Baha'i Faith to "the prophets of God and their mission in the history of society." It elucidates key allegorical passages in the New Testament and Qur'an. Gems of Divine Mysteries (Javahiru'l-Asrar), a short work Baha'u'llah revealed around 1860, relates to themes found in both the Iqan and in the Seven Valleys. A central theme of the book is the return of the Promised One in a human guise. It also considers the symbolic meaning of many Islamic and biblical terms and explores such matters as the cause of the rejection of the prophets of the past and the danger of a literal interpretation of scripture."

Brian Denton says

This book sets forth the Baha'i theology of progressive revelation. It also serves as exegesis of the Koran. I think next time I'll read both books at the same time.

John Luthy says

I read this book in 1965.

It opened my eyes to the continuity and clarity of messengers from God, share a single purpose: Give guidance, faith, hope and charity to all who seek, regardless of the time.

God says it's never too late.

Tricia Hague-Blackford says

This book is exceptional, with answers for all of the questions and metaphors, of the Holy Bible, the Koran, and other world religious Holy Books. It houses the proofs of Baha'u'llah as having been the Manifestation of God on earth for today. A must read for everyone searching for the Promised One of all Religions.

David C. Mueller says

This is perhaps one of the most influential books I have read in my life. It explains the Baha'i concept of progressive revelation and why religious leaders tend not to accept Prophets and religions coming after the advent of the ones they represent. Although originally written to an Islamic audience, the book contains much material on Christianity and should be interesting to Christians as well. This book is considered one of the preeminent books of the Baha'i Faith and was the one that led me to see Baha'u'llah as the Prophet for the modern era.

Martin Genet says

I have always found belief systems fascinating and the Bahai faith particularly interests me because it embraces and accepts a number of faiths. I think the faith has elements that would appeal to many.

Tom Rothbauer says

This is an excellent book. I turn down pages that have significant or important messages. I turned over 50 pages. This Holy Book of Baha'i speaks continually of the Manifestations of the divine and Wellsprings of Divine Knowledge which have been given to us throughout history within the various religious traditions. "All their utterances are in reality but the expressions of one Truth." (p163)

Maya Bohnhoff says

What can I say? This book was one of the first I read before I became a Baha'i. It deals largely with prophecy

and scriptural meaning and contains the most wonderful and evocative description of what it means to seek truth.
