

**Science, Faith and Global Warming:  
Arising to the Challenge**



**IEF and BASED-UK joint conference  
Balliol College, Oxford, England  
15-17 September 2006**

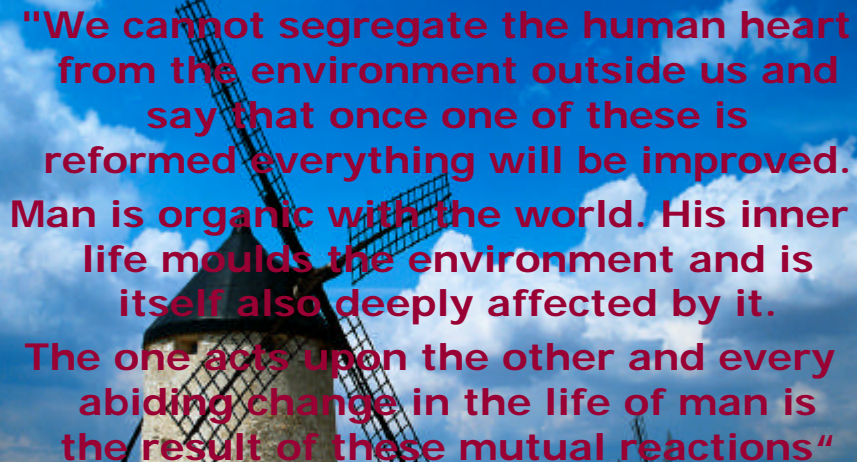


A close-up photograph of a vibrant green tree frog with a black stripe along its side, perched on the petals of a large, bright red rose. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

**When God created Adam, he showed him all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him:**

**"See my works, how lovely they are, how fine they are. All I have created, I created for you. Take care not to corrupt and destroy my universe, for if you destroy it, no one will come after you to put it right"**

**Ecclesiastes, Rabbah 7 (Judaism)**

A photograph of a traditional stone windmill with a wooden lattice structure, situated on a rocky hillside. In the background, several other similar windmills are visible against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**"We cannot segregate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life moulds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every abiding change in the life of man is the result of these mutual reactions"**


**Shoghi Effendi (in letters of 1932 and 1933)**



**One should cultivate an unlimited loving mind  
Toward all beings  
The way a mother protects her only child  
With her life.**

**One should cultivate an unlimited loving mind  
without obstruction, anger or opposition.  
To the whole world  
Above, below, across.**

Metta Sutta 1. (Theravada Buddhism)

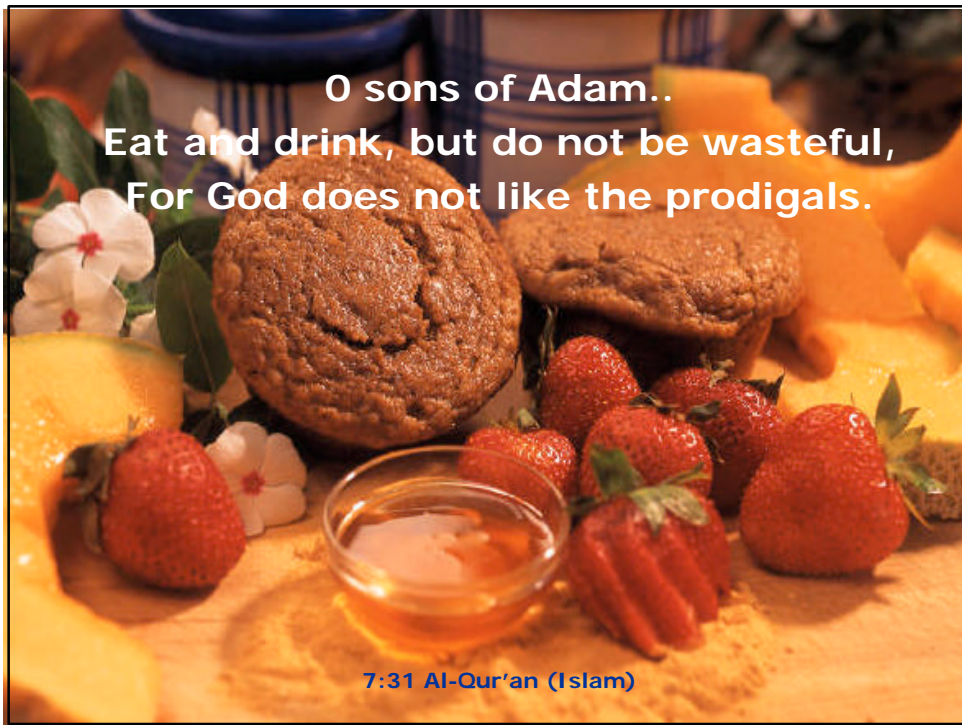


**Bahá'u'lláh's promise that civilization  
will exist on this planet for a  
minimum of five thousand centuries,  
makes it unconscionable to ignore the  
long-term impact of decisions made  
today.**

**The world community must, therefore,  
learn to make use of the earth's  
natural resources, both renewable  
and non-renewable, in a manner that  
ensures sustainability into the distant  
reaches of time.**

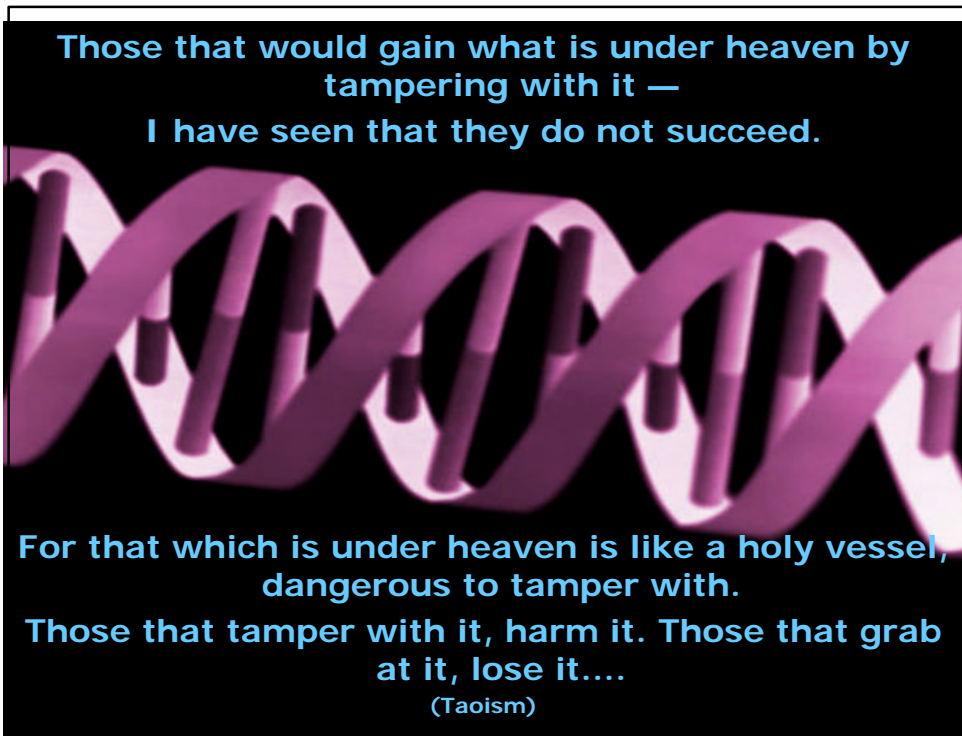
(The Baha'i International Community, 6 April 1995, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Baha'i Faith)





**O sons of Adam..  
Eat and drink, but do not be wasteful,  
For God does not like the prodigals.**

7:31 Al-Qur'an (Islam)



**Those that would gain what is under heaven by  
tampering with it —  
I have seen that they do not succeed.**

**For that which is under heaven is like a holy vessel,  
dangerous to tamper with.**

**Those that tamper with it, harm it. Those that grab  
at it, lose it....**

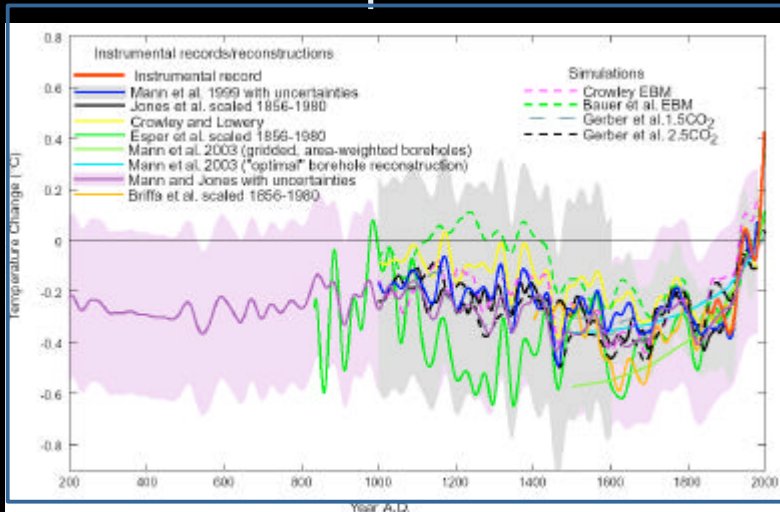
(Taoism)

...man through the exercise of his scientific, intellectual power ... can modify, change and control nature according to his own wishes and uses.

Science, so to speak, is the breaker of the laws of nature.

Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 242

## Surface Temperature: 2000



Anomaly wrt 1961 - 1990

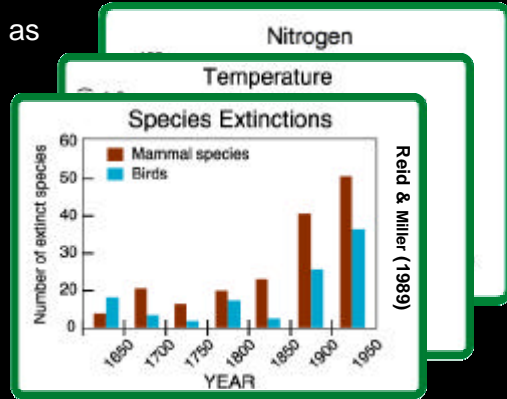
Source: Mann et al., Eos, 84, 256-258, 2003

# What is Global Change?

- Global-scale changes that affect the functioning of the Earth System
- Much more than climate change
- Socio-economic as well as biophysical

For example, changes in:

- Nitrogen fixation
- Temperature
- Biodiversity.....

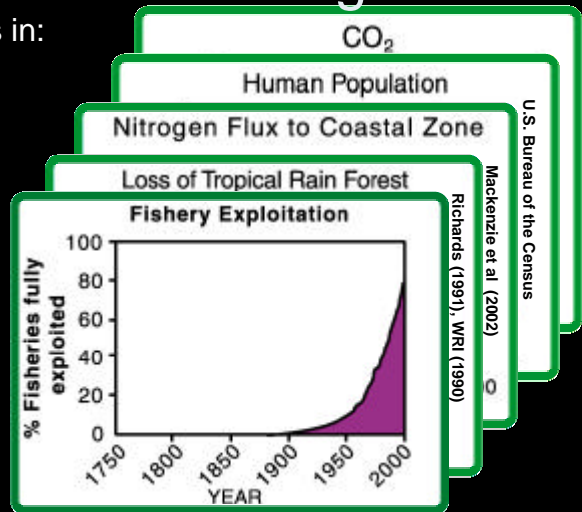


(International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, Science 4, 2006)

# What is Global Change?

For example, changes in:

- Nitrogen fixation
- Temperature
- Biodiversity.....
- Atmosphere composition
- Population
- N in the coastal zone
- Forest cover
- Fisheries exploitation

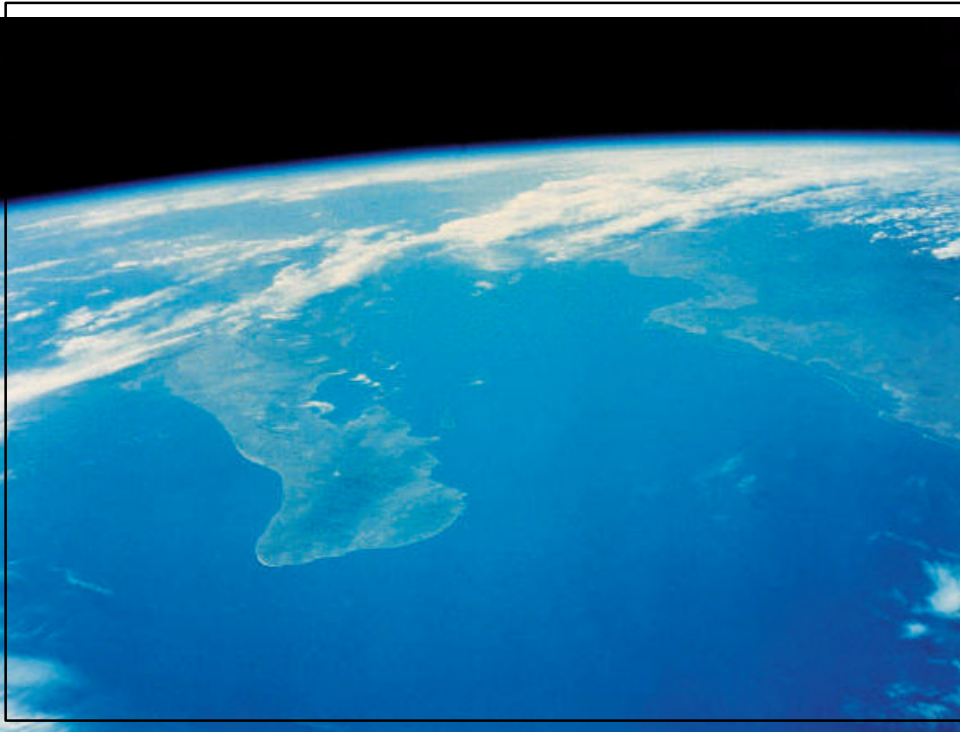


(International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, Science 4, 2006)

**Strange and astonishing things exist in the earth but they are hidden from the minds and the understanding of men.**

**These things are capable of changing the whole atmosphere of the earth and their contamination would prove lethal**

**(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 69)**





**Wert thou to speed through the immensity of  
space and traverse the expanse of heaven,  
yet thou wouldst find no rest save in  
submission to Our command and  
humbleness before Our Face.**

**(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)**

