



CLOSE CONNECTIONS

The Bridge between
Spiritual and
Physical Reality

by **John S. Hatcher**

Is consciousness a product of the soul or an illusion the brain creates? Has creation always existed or does it have a point of beginning? Is matter infinitely refinable, or is there some indivisible building block for all of physical creation? Is the universe infinite or a finite “closed” system? Has the human being always been a distinct creation or did we evolve from a lesser species? Is there a Creator whose design has guided the evolution of human society, or did creation and human society come about by pure chance? And if there is a Creator, why does He seem to allow injustice to thrive and the innocent to suffer so that we call natural disasters “acts of God”?

In *Close Connections* author and scholar John Hatcher employs axioms drawn from the Bahá’í Faith as tools for probing answers to these and other questions that relate to one overriding question: What is the purpose of physical reality? At the heart of the quest for these answers is a provocative analogy—a comparison of the creation and functioning of the individual human being with the method by which creation as a whole has come into being and progresses towards some as yet concealed destiny.

If the conclusions Hatcher draws from this study are correct, then every branch of science must in time reconsider the description of reality to include at least one additional dimension—the metaphysical or spiritual dimension—and its relationship to, and influence on, material reality.

John S. Hatcher holds a B.A. and M.A. in English literature from Vanderbilt University, a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Georgia, and is currently a professor and director of graduate studies in English literature at the University of South Florida in Tampa. A widely published poet and distinguished lecturer, he is author of numerous books on literature, philosophy, Bahá’í theology and scripture, including *From the Auroral Darkness: The Life and Poetry of Robert E. Hayden*; *A Sense of History: The Poetry of John Hatcher*; *The Ocean of His Words: A Reader’s Guide to the Art of Bahá’u’lláh*; and *The Purpose of Physical Reality: The Kingdom of Names*. He and his family live on a farm near Plant City, Florida.

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