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Bahá'í Publishing

Press Release

New Book Explores Why Essentially Spiritual Beings—You and Me—Live in a Material World

Distinguished Bahá'í Scholar Offers Unique Perspectives on the Human Condition

Wilmette, IL, June 6, 2005: 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 always 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: The Bridge between Spiritual and Physical Reality* (Bahá'í Publishing, \$20, soft cover, ISBN 1-931847-15-0), distinguished Bahá'í author, poet, and scholar John Hatcher employs authoritative writings from the Bahá'í Faith as tools for probing answers to these and other questions that, ultimately, are shown to relate to one of the largest questions of all: What *is* the purpose of physical reality?

At the heart of Hatcher's quest for answers lies a provocative analogy—a comparison of the creation and functioning of the individual human being with the method by which creation itself comes 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 rework its understanding of reality to include at least one additional dimension—the metaphysical or spiritual dimension. Further, science will need to consider the degree to which events in the physical world are affected by this spiritual reality. And those who acknowledge spiritual reality will have to consider the extent to which their spiritual condition is influenced by their experience in the physical world around them.

To receive a review copy of *Close Connections*, or to schedule an interview or author event with John Hatcher, please contact Tim Moore, Bahá'í Publishing sales and marketing manager, at 847-425-7964. E-mail: tmoore@usbnc.org.

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