Science, Faith and Global Warming: Arising to the Challenge

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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)

“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)
0 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.

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)
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)