

LUMINOSITY

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words." - Bahá'u'lláh

INSTANCES OF REFERENCE IN AUTHORITATIVE WRITINGS & GUIDANCE

LUMINARY - 139
LUMINOUS - 269
ILLUMINE - 600
ILLUMINATE - 110
STAR - 258
CELESTIAL - 339
SUN - 1,073
MOON - 113
SHINE - 439
HEAVEN - 1,814
RAY - 339

THE DIVINE LUMINARY:

Eternal Light for Luminous and Illumined Souls

"Illumine my inner being, O my Lord, with the splendors of the Dayspring of Thy Revelation, even as Thou didst illumine my outer being with the morning light of Thy favor." - Bahá'u'lláh (Prayers)

"Thereupon the countenance of the favored damsel beamed above the celestial chambers even as the light that shineth from the face of the Youth above His mortal temple; Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
She then descended with such an adorning as to illumine the heavens and all that is therein." - Bahá'u'lláh (*Tablet of the Holy Mariner*)

"I have turned my face unto Thee, O my Lord! Illumine it with the light of Thy countenance. Protect it, then, from turning to anyone but Thee." - Bahá'u'lláh (Medium Obligatory Prayer)

"O HOUR of the Dawn! Ere the resplendent glory of the divine Luminary sheddeth its radiance from the Dayspring of this Gate, call thou to mind that the appointed Day of God will indeed be at hand in less than the twinkling of an eye. Thus hath the decree of God been issued in the Mother Book." - *Selections from the Writings of the Báb Chapter XCIV*

"I bear witness, O my God, that Thou hast ordained this Day to stand unequalled amongst all the days of Thy world and unrivalled amidst all that Thou hast fashioned through Thy creative power. This is that primal Day which Thou hast singled out from among all other days, and exalted over all other times, and appointed as the King of Days unto all peoples, inasmuch as Thou didst manifest on this Day the tokens of Thy transcendent power and the evidences of Thy holy unity. Thou hast caused its radiance to surpass the splendour of the sun, the moon, and the stars, and to transcend the brightness of every lofty and glorious, every shining and brilliant light. Nay, Thou hast illumined this Day, O my Best-Beloved, with the very lights of Thine own inaccessible Being and with the full glory of Thine own exalted Essence." - Bahá'u'lláh *Days of Remembrance (Riḍván)*

LUMINOUS STARS

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words." - Bahá'u'lláh

"The term "suns" hath many a time been applied in the writings of the "immaculate Souls" unto the Prophets of God, those luminous Emblems of Detachment. Among those writings are the following words recorded in the "Prayer of Nudbih": "Whither are gone the resplendent Suns? Whereunto have departed those shining Moons and sparkling Stars?" Thus, it hath become evident that the terms "sun," "moon," and "stars" primarily signify the Prophets of God, the saints, and their companions, those Luminaries, the light of Whose knowledge hath shed illumination upon the worlds of the visible and the invisible." - Bahá'u'lláh *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*

"O thou who art steadfast in the Covenant! A few days ago I was glancing at some photographs of the friends. By chance I came across thy photograph. As I beheld thy person standing poised and in the utmost dignity with chains around thy neck, I was so affected that all sorrow was turned into joy and radiance, and I praised God that the world's Greatest Luminary hath nurtured and trained such servants who, while tied in chains and under the threat of the sword, shine forth in the utmost exultation and rapture. And this is but a token of the grace of thy Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate." - A Tablet of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

"In spite of all their efforts the Sun of Truth shone forth from the horizon. In every case the army of light vanquished the powers of darkness on the battlefield of the world, and the radiance of the Divine Teaching illumined the earth. Those who accepted the Teaching and worked for the Cause of God became luminous stars in the sky of humanity." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá *Paris Talks*

"Make them signs and tokens of the Kingdom, luminous stars above the horizons of this nether life. Make them to be a comfort and a solace to humankind and servants to the peace of the world." - *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

"I pray for each and all that you may be as flames of love in the world, and that the brightness of your light and the warmth of your affection may reach the heart of every sad and sorrowing child of God. May you be as shining stars, bright and luminous forever in the Kingdom.

I counsel you that you study earnestly the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, so that, God helping you, you may in deed and truth become Bahá'ís." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá *Paris Talks*

"PRAISE be to Him through Whose splendors the earth and the heavens are aglow, through Whose fragrant breathings the gardens of holiness that adorn the hearts of the chosen are trembling for joy, to Him Who hath shed His light and brightened the face of the firmament. Verily there appeared luminous and sparkling stars, glittering, shining out, and casting forth their rays upon the supreme horizon. They derived their grace and brilliance from the bounties of the Abhá Realm, then, stars of guidance, they poured down their lights upon this earth." - *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

LUMINOUS STARS

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words." - Bahá'u'lláh

"Resurrection hath come to pass, and the bestowals of thy Lord, the Forgiving, have encompassed all things. Salutations and praise be unto those luminous, resplendent stars that are shedding down their rays from the highest heaven, those celestial bodies of the girdling zodiac of the Abhá Realm. May glory rest upon them." - *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

"Let them faithfully guard the edifice of the Cause of God from every side; let them become the bright stars of His luminous skies. For the hordes of darkness are assailing this Cause from every direction, and the peoples of the earth are intent on extinguishing this evident Light... Assuredly be cognizant of these things, be watchful, and guard the Cause of God. The most vital duty, in this day, is to purify your characters, to correct your manners, and improve your conduct. The beloved of the Merciful must show forth such character and conduct among His creatures, that the fragrance of their holiness may be shed upon the whole world... The purpose is that earthlings should turn into the people of Heaven, and those who walk in darkness should come into the light, and those who are excluded should join the inner circle of the Kingdom, and those who are as nothing should become intimates of the everlasting Glory." - *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

"Although the stars are scintillating and brilliant, the sun is superior to them in luminous effulgence. Similarly, these holy, divine Manifestations are and must always be distinguished above all other beings in every attribute of glory and perfection in order that it may be proven that the Manifestation is the true Teacher and real Trainer; that He is the Sun of Truth, endowed with a supreme splendor and reflecting the beauty of God." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*

"Man, however, hath a twofold station: one luminous, the other dark; one pertaining to the realm of the Divine, the other to the world of nature; one inclined towards heavenly virtues, the other towards satanic qualities. For man standeth on the demarcation line between light and darkness. In the circle of existence, he is situated at the lowest point, which marketh at once the end of the arc of descent and the beginning of the arc of ascent. For this reason, he is free to move in either direction: towards light or darkness, towards ignorance or guidance—depending on the one that prevaieth. Should the rational faculty prevail, man would shine radiantly and occupy a lofty station in the realms on high. And should the self and the lower nature prevail, the result would be darkness and he would fall into the nethermost fire. For in man the powers of the heavenly Kingdom and the forces of his animal nature are at war until one or the other doth triumph. The Glory of Glories rest upon thee." - 'Abdul-Baha

BRILLIANT STARS

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words." - Bahá'u'lláh

" O Almighty! Look upon us with the glance of mercifulness. Grant us heavenly confirmation. Bestow upon us the breath of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be assisted in Thy service and, like unto brilliant stars, shine in these regions with the light of Thy guidance. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Wise and the Seeing." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*Tablets of the Divine Plan*)

" It is incumbent upon you to ponder in your hearts and meditate upon His words, and humbly to call upon Him, and to put away self in His heavenly Cause. These are the things that will make of you signs of guidance unto all mankind, and brilliant stars shining down from the all-highest horizon, and towering trees in the Abhá Paradise." - *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

" Recall, too, those other blessed souls who were even as shining lamps unto this world, as brilliant stars among the children of men, as resplendent rays and luminous orbs. They sacrificed themselves, one and all, and shone brightly in the path of the Blessed Beauty. They suffered captivity and endured fierce persecution, were pillaged and plundered, were cast into prisons and dungeons, until, in utter meekness, they drank at last the draught of martyrdom." - Abdu'l-Bahá *Light of the World*

"Grant that we may become flourishing trees laden with fruit in the orchard of knowledge, brilliant stars shining above the horizon of eternal happiness and radiant lamps shedding light upon the assemblage of mankind." - Abdu'l-Bahá *Bahá'í Prayers and Tablets for Children*

"In one of the earliest Tablets addressed by Him to the American believers these equally significant words have been penned: "If ye be truly united, if ye agree to promote that which is the essential purpose, and to show forth an all-unifying love, I swear by Him Who causeth the seed to split and the breeze to waft, so great a light will shine forth from your faces as to reach the highest heavens, the fame of your glory will be noised abroad, the evidences of your preeminence will spread throughout all regions, your power will penetrate the realities of all things, your aims and purposes will exert their influence upon the great and mighty nations, your spirits will encompass the whole world of being, and ye will discover yourselves to be kings in the dominions of the Kingdom, and attired with the glorious crowns of the invisible Realm, and become the marshals of the army of peace, and princes of the forces of light, and stars shining from the horizon of perfection, and brilliant lamps shedding their radiance upon men." - Shoghi Effendi *Citadel of Faith*



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DEPRIVE ME NOT, O MY LORD, OF
THE SPLENDORS OF THE LIGHT OF
THY FACE, WHOSE BRIGHTNESS
HATH ILLUMINATED THE WHOLE
WORLD.

- BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

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WHAT IS IT TO BE LUMINOUS?

IN ASTROPHYSICS

the intrinsic brightness of a celestial object (as distinct from its apparent brightness diminished by distance).

WHAT IS IT TO BE BRIGHT?

IN ASTROPHYSICS

a measure of how bright an object appears to an observer. It is determined by the amount of light that the object emits and how far away the object is from the observer. The apparent brightness of an object decreases as the distance between the object and the observer increases, because the light has to travel further and is spread out over a larger area



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ALL GLORY BE TO THIS DAWN,
THROUGH WHICH THE DIVINE
LUMINARIES HAVE SHONE FORTH
ABOVE THE HORIZON OF
SANCTITY BY THE LEAVE OF GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY, THE INACCESSIBLE,
THE MOST HIGH!
- BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

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CELESTIAL OBJECTS THAT SHINE OF THEIR OWN POWER

Celestial objects that shine of their own power are called "self-luminous" objects. Examples include stars, quasars, and some galaxies & nebulae. These objects generate energy through nuclear reactions, such as nuclear fusion in stars, and emit this energy in the form of light.

WHAT CELESTIAL OBJECTS REFLECT LIGHT?

Celestial objects that do not shine of their own power include planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and other small bodies in the solar system. They reflect light from other sources, such as the sun. Some celestial objects, such as nebulae, also emit light due to the presence of gases that are excited by the radiation from nearby stars.

SUNS & MOONS

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words." - Bahá'u'lláh

"Lofty is the station of man, were he to hold fast to righteousness and truth and to remain firm and steadfast in the Cause. In the eyes of the All-Merciful a true man appeareth even as a firmament; its sun and moon are his sight and hearing, and his shining and resplendent character its stars. His is the loftiest station, and his influence educateth the world of being." - Bahá'u'lláh *Kitáb-i-'Ahd* (Book of the Covenant)

"IV. Cling firmly to obligatory prayer and fasting. Verily, the religion of God is like unto heaven; fasting is its sun, and obligatory prayer is its moon. In truth, they are the pillars of religion whereby the righteous are distinguished from those who transgress His commandments. We entreat God, exalted and glorified be He, that He may graciously enable all to observe that which He hath revealed in His Ancient Book.

V. Know thou that religion is as heaven; and fasting and obligatory prayer are its sun and its moon. We entreat God, exalted and glorified be He, to graciously aid everyone who acteth according to His will and good-pleasure." - From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

"Moreover, in the traditions the terms "sun" and "moon" have been applied to prayer and fasting, even as it is said: "Fasting is illumination, prayer is light." One day, a well-known divine came to visit Us. While We were conversing with him, he referred to the above-quoted tradition. He said: "Inasmuch as fasting causeth the heat of the body to increase, it hath therefore been likened unto the light of the sun; and as the prayer of the night-season refresheth man, it hath been compared unto the radiance of the moon." Thereupon We realized that that poor man had not been favored with a single drop of the ocean of true understanding, and had strayed far from the Burning Bush of divine wisdom. We then politely observed to him saying: "The interpretation your honor hath given to this tradition is the one current amongst the people. Could it not be interpreted differently?" He asked Us: "What could it be?" We made reply: "Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, and the most distinguished of God's chosen Ones, hath likened the Dispensation of the Qur'án unto heaven, by reason of its loftiness, its paramount influence, its majesty, and the fact that it comprehendeth all religions. And as the sun and moon constitute the brightest and most prominent luminaries in the heavens, similarly in the heaven of the religion of God two shining orbs have been ordained— fasting and prayer. 'Islam is heaven; fasting is its sun, prayer, its moon.'" - Bahá'u'lláh *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*

"Such a one may be likened unto a star or the moon, whereas the Blessed Beauty is even as the Sun itself. The moon acquireth its light from the sun." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá *Light of the World*

QUASARS

"Verily there appeared luminous and sparkling stars, glittering, shining out, and casting forth their rays upon the supreme horizon. They derived their grace and brilliance from the bounties of the Abhá Realm, then, stars of guidance, they poured down their lights upon this earth." - Abdul-Baha

HST's 100,000th Observation
Hubble Space Telescope · WFPC2

PRC96-25 - ST ScI OPO - July 10, 1996 - C. Steidel (CalTech), NASA

Hubble Space Telescope exposure of a quasar that is about 9 billion light years from Earth. The quasar is the bright object in the center of the photo...The bright object to the right of the quasar is a foreground star. The quasar and star are separated by billions of light-years. The quasar looks as bright as the star because it produces a tremendous amount of light from a compact source.

QUASARS

a massive and extremely remote celestial object, emitting exceptionally large amounts of energy, and typically having a starlike image in a telescope. It has been suggested that quasars contain massive black holes and may represent a stage in the evolution of some galaxies.

The most luminous celestial object known is a quasar, which is an extremely luminous active galactic nucleus (AGN) powered by the accretion of matter onto a supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy. Quasars can emit up to a few thousand times more energy than an entire galaxy. They are so luminous that they can outshine the entire galaxy in which they reside. Some of the most luminous quasars known are 3C 48, 3C 273, and 3C 356.

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UNITY THAT BLACK GIRLS NEED IS ALSO DISCOVERED INTERNALLY. UNIFYING INHERITED AND SELF-EXPERIENCED TEARS IN THE FABRIC OF OUR MORTAL LIFE, WILL PRODUCE LUMINOUS RESULTS THAT APPEAR AS BRIGHT AS NEARBY STARS. WE ACHIEVE THIS UNITY, SPIRITUALLY, CALLING ON THE CREATIVE POWER OF OUR IMAGINATION, RE-ARRANGING OUR EXISTENCE AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL OF POSSIBILITIES. BANISHING RELIANCE ON CONVENTIONAL WAYS OF KNOWING, AND HONORING THAT OUR BEGINNING IS OURS TO DREAM, IMAGINE, CREATE AND REDEEM. WE ARE SPIRITUAL, WE ARE LIGHT, WE ARE STARDUST. WHEN WE UNITE THE MATTER AND THE SPIRIT - WE WILL EMIT LUMINOUS LIGHT - THE PUPIL OF THE EYE, THE FOUNT OF LIGHT AND THE REVEALER OF THE CONTINGENT WORLD, THE POTE,

THE VERY WELLSPRING OF THE LIGHT, THE POTE A SOURCE OF RADIANT LIGHT" - DR. TOYA MARY OKONKWO

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