

Provisional Translations

As you proceed through any of the studies or deepening on the Bahá'í Essentials website, you may note the designation “Provisional Translation” in the reference notes following a few of the quotations. I selected these quotations over other optional authorized translations because I felt they best conveyed the basic truths of the Revelation on the given subject.

For Bahá'í purposes, “provisional translations” refer to renderings of the Writings that have been produced by one or more translators (Bahá'í or not) in a personal capacity. These stand in contrast to “authorized translations,” which have undergone a rigorous vetting and editing process facilitated by the Universal House of Justice—the international governing body of the Bahá'í Faith—who then approves these translations for publication in Bahá'í texts.

In a memorandum from the Research Department at the Bahá'í World Center, entitled “Policies Governing Authorized and Provisional Translations of the Bahá'í Holy Writings into English and their Publication”, dated 4 July 1999, we read:

“Individual believers are free to translate into English any of the Holy Writings for their own use. Such translations may also be issued electronically, and may be published in circulars or journals without review by anyone other than the editors of the publications, but they must, in all cases, be clearly labeled as ‘provisional translations.’” [[source](#)].