

Humility & Simplicity

Universal Worship, October 10, 2021

HINDUISM:

Gentle, humble and refined persons never give pain and trouble to others. They speak truthfully and sweetly. They are not angry even at those that do wrong to them and bring them harm. They do things successfully but without ego. They have unshakable minds. They neither censor others nor speak ill of them. They are not attracted by the attractions even when they get easy opportunities. Smoothness is their characteristic. They are shy of going against the Scriptures and society. They avoid making useless efforts.

-Bhagavad Gita 16-1 (trans. Shrikant Prasoona)

BUDDHISM:

This is what should be done
By one who is skilled in goodness
Having glimpsed the state of perfect peace,
Let them be able, honest and upright,
Gentle in speech, meek and not proud.

-Karaniya Metta Sutta (trans. unknown)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

Thus, with deep humility, we dedicate to You, O Ahura, and to Your Law, as a votive offering, all the material creations in Your Kingdom which fulfil themselves through the Good Mind, for upon the true visionaries descends from on high spiritual power as in one like You, O Mazda, for all time.

-Yasna 34:3 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

TAOISM:

Get rid of wisdom and reason
and people will live a hundred times better
get rid of kindness and justice
and people once more will love and obey
get rid of cleverness and profit
and thieves will cease to exist
but these three sayings are not enough
hence let this be added
wear the undyed and hold the uncarved
reduce self-interest and limit desires
get rid of learning and problems will vanish
-Taoteching 19 (trans. Red Pine)

INDIGENOUS:

[The Sun Dancers] also put rabbit skins on their
arms and legs, for the rabbit represents humility,
because he is quiet and soft and not self-asserting
— a quality which we must all possess when we go
to the center of the world.
-Black Elk

JUDAISM:

Wherewith shall I come before the LORD,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt-offerings,
With calves of a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
It hath been told thee, O man, what is good,

And what the LORD doth require of thee:
Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk
humbly with thy God.
-Micah 6:5-8

CHRISTIANITY:

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."
Luke 18:9-14

ISLAM:

And the devotees of the Infinitely Compassionate One are those who walk on the earth in humility,
And when those who are ignorant of God address them, they say, "Peace!"
Those who spend the night in adoration of their Lord, prostrate and standing in prayer;
Those who say, "Our Lord! Avert us from the wrath of hell, for its wrath is indeed an affliction grievous.

Evil indeed is it as an abode, and as a place to rest in.”

Those who, when they spend, are not extravagant, and not stingy,

But hold a just balance between the two extremes.

-Qur'an 25:63-67 (Trans. Yusuf Ali)

TRUTH:

The one who has humility as their principle is incapable of pride, and the one who has pride as their principle is incapable of humility: one lacks the right leg, the other the left, and in both cases something is missing. There is a time when humility wins, when humility raises one's position, when it melts hearts, when it is the greatest virtue in one's life; and at such times it is a serious fault if humility is missing. But then there is a time when pride has its place, when pride has to perform a role, when it raises a person, or when it sustains them; and at that time they are lost if they practice the principle of humility. Therefore, it is not the principle, it is making use of the principle which is the main thing.