

February 2021
COURAGE. Fearlessness. Confidence. Risk-taking.

HINDUISM

You have heard the intellectual explanation of Sanhkya, Arjuna; now listen to the principles of yoga. By practicing these you can break through the bonds of karma. On this path effort never goes to waste, and there is no failure. Even a little effort towards spiritual awareness will protect you from the greatest fear.

Bhagavad Gita 2:39-40 (Eknath Easwaran)

Selfish desire is found in the senses, mind, and intellect, misleading them and burying the understanding in delusion. Fight with all your strength, Arjuna! Controlling your senses, conquer your enemy, the destroyer of knowledge and realization.

BG 3:40-41 (Easwaran)

Wherever there is Krsna, the master of all mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory, extraordinary power, and morality. That is my opinion.

-Bhagavad Gita 18:78 (trans. As It Is)

BUDDHISM

And who is the person who, subject to death, is not afraid or in terror of death? There is the case of the person who has abandoned passion, desire, fondness, thirst, fever, and craving for sensuality. Then he comes down with a serious disease. As he comes down with a serious disease, the thought does not occur to him, 'O, those beloved sensual pleasures will be taken from me, and I will be taken from them!' He does not grieve, is not tormented; does not weep, beat his breast, or grow delirious. This is a person who, subject to death, is not afraid or in terror of death.

-Abhaya Sutta (trans. Thanissaro Bhikkhu)

ZOROASTRIANISM

So to the God-fearing one come the Lord's Might and Majesty, His Good Mind and His steadfast Law, so that strength-giving Divine Devotion may grant unyielding support to their subtle body against the onslaughts of Wrath. Thus, they shall belong to Them, the Divine Powers, and to You, O God, as if they stood first in Your Ordeal of blazing fire and molten metal.

-Yasna 30:7 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

Place before Us your searching questions, for in truth by that questioning you will acquire such courage as if a mighty ruler had bestowed upon you his sovereign will.

-Yasna 43:10 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

TAOISM

Appearing means life
disappearing means death
thirteen are the followers of life
thirteen are the followers of death
but people living to live
move toward the land of death's thirteen
and why is this so
because they live to live
it's said that those who guard life well
aren't injured by soldiers in battle
or harmed by rhinos or tigers in the wild
for rhinos find nowhere to stick their horns
tigers find nowhere to sink their claws
and soldiers find nowhere to thrust their spears
and why is this so
because for them there's no land of death

-Taoteching 50 (trans. Red Pine)

INDIGENOUS

"When a vision comes from the thunder beings of the west,
it comes with terror like a thunder storm; but
when the storm of vision has passed, the world is greenier
and happier; for wherever the truth of vision comes upon
the world, it is like a rain. The world,
you see, is happier after the terror of the storm."

— Black Elk,

"Crazy Horse was dead. He was brave and good and wise.
He never wanted anything but to save his people, and he
fought the Wasichus only when they came to kill us in our own country.
He was only thirty years old. They could not kill him in battle.
They had to lie to him and kill him that way.
I cried all night, and so did my father."

— Black Elk,

JUDAISM

The LORD is my light and my help; whom should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, whom
should I dread?
When evil men assail me to devour my flesh— it is they, my foes and my enemies, who stumble and fall.
Should an army besiege me, my heart would have no fear; should war beset me, still would I be

confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD, only that do I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD, to frequent His temple.

He will shelter me in His pavilion on an evil day, grant me the protection of His tent, raise me high upon a rock.

Now is my head high over my enemies roundabout; I sacrifice in His tent with shouts of joy, singing and chanting a hymn to the LORD.

-Psalms 27:1-6 (trans. Sefaria.org)

CHRISTIANITY

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 5:44

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:29, 31

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.'

-Matthew 9:2

ISLAM

O those who believed! Be Godfearing of God as it is His right that He be feared. And die not but that you be ones who submit to the One God. And cleave firmly to the rope of God altogether and be not split up. And remember the divine blessing of God on you when you had been enemies. Then, He brought your hearts together. You became brothers/sisters by His divine blessing. You had been on the brink of an abyss of the fire and He saved you from it. Thus, God makes manifest to you His signs so that perhaps you will be truly guided.

Quran 3:102-3 (trans. Bakhtiar)

TRUTH

All the lack that we find in life is the lack of will, and all the blessing that comes to us comes by the power of will. The fearing well-doer is worse than a fearless sinner.

(vadan_talas)