

# Generosity

## Hospitality, Abundance

Universal Worship, March 14, 2021

### HINDUISM:

Charity given to a worthy person simply because it is right to give, without consideration of anything in return, at the proper time and in the proper place, is stated to be in the mode of goodness. But charity given with reluctance, with the hope of a return or in expectation of a reward, is said to be in the mode of passion. And that charity, which is given at the wrong place and wrong time to unworthy persons, without showing respect, or with contempt, is held to be of the nature of ignorance.

-Bhagavad Gita 17:20-22 (trans. Swami Mukundananda, adapted)

### BUDDHISM:

For all those ailing in the world,  
Until their every sickness has been healed,  
May I myself become for them  
The doctor, nurse, the medicine itself.

Raining down a flood of food and drink,  
May I dispel the ills of thirst and famine.  
And in the aeons marked by scarcity and want,  
May I myself appear as drink and sustenance.

For sentient beings, poor and destitute,  
May I become a treasure ever-plentiful,  
And lie before them closely in their reach,

A varied source of all that they might need.

-Shantideva, The Way of the Bodhisattva 3:8-10

### ZOROASTRIANISM:

Whoever brings untold bliss to others will be given that bliss by Mazda Ahura who rules at will...

And so, to such a one will be given the height of all blessedness of the blest. O most gloriously radiant Spirit, Mazda, grant me enlightenment, for You have given to all, through your Law, the full measure of the Good Mind that each may enjoy unlimited bliss all the days of their long life.

-Yasna 43:1-2 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

### TAOISM:

the sage accumulates nothing  
but the more they do for others

the greater their existence

the more they give to others

the greater their abundance

the Way of Heaven

is to help without harming

the Way of the sage

is to act without struggling

-Taoteching 81 (trans. Red Pine, adapted)

### INDIGENOUS:

It was our belief that the love of possessions is a weakness to be overcome. . . . Children must early learn the beauty of generosity. They are taught to give what they prize most, that they may taste the happiness of giving. . . . The Indians in their

simplicity literally give away all that they have—to relatives, to guests of other tribes or clans, but above all to the poor and the aged, from whom they can hope for no return.

— Charles Alexander Eastman (Ohiyesa)

#### JUDAISM:

And the LORD appeared unto him by the terebinths of Mamre, as he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood over against him; and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed down to the earth,

and said: 'My lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant.

Let now a little water be fetched, and wash your feet, and recline yourselves under the tree.

And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and stay ye your heart; after that ye shall pass on; forasmuch as ye are come to your servant.' And they said: 'So do, as thou hast said.'

And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said:

'Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.'

And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto the servant; and he hastened to dress it. And he took curd, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

Genesis 18:1-8 (JPS 1917)

#### CHRISTIANITY:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into

your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

-Luke 6:38

ISLAM:

True piety does not consist in turning your faces towards the east or the west - but truly pious is he who believes in God, and the Last Day; and the angels, and revelation, and the prophets; and spends his substance - however much he himself may cherish - it - upon his near of kin, and the orphans, and the needy, and the wayfarer, and the beggars, and for the freeing of human beings from bondage; and is constant in prayer, and renders the purifying dues; and [truly pious are] they who keep their promises whenever they promise, and are patient in misfortune and hardship and in time of peril: it is they that have proved themselves true, and it is they, they who are conscious of God.

-Quran 2:177 (trans. Asad)

TRUTH:

If by nature one is not hospitable the hospitality they give is of no use. The one who has experienced the joy of this quality feels a greater satisfaction in sharing their only piece of bread than in eating it by themselves. Duality in nature keeps all such beautiful qualities of the soul away from one. The thought of unity is productive of all good qualities in humanity.