

Nobility

Vocation. Responsibility.
Universal Worship, July 11, 2021

HINDUISM:

“Manliness consists not in bluff, bravado or loneliness. It consists in daring to do the right thing and facing consequences whether it is in matters social, political or other. It consists in deeds not words.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

BUDDHISM:

O son of noble family, that which is called death has now arrived, so you should adopt this attitude: ‘I have arrived at the time of death, so now, by means of this death, I will adopt only the attitude of the enlightened state of mind, friendliness and compassion, and attain perfect enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings as limitless as space.’
-Tibetan Book of the Dead (trans. Fremantle and Trungpa)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

So truly, the most rewarding goodness shall belong to the one who, in material and spiritual life, shows others the righteous way of happiness which leads people to the abode of Ahura Mazda. Because, it is in this way of self-creation that he, like You O

Mazda, will become free, knowledgeable, and productive.

–The Gathas 8:3 (trans. K Khazai)

TAOISM:

The reason the sea can govern a hundred rivers
is because it has mastered being lower
thus it can govern a hundred rivers
hence if sages would be above the people
they should speak as if they were below them
if they would be in front
they should act as if they were behind them
thus when sages are above
the people aren't burdened
when they are in front
the people aren't obstructed
the world never wearies
of pushing sages forward
and because they don't struggle
no one can struggle against them
-Taoteching 66 (trans. Red Pine)

INDIGENOUS:

Individuals, as extensions of Spirit, come into the world with a purpose. At its core, the purpose of an individual is to bring beauty, harmony, and communion to Earth. Individuals live out their purpose through their work. Thus the human work of maintaining the world, to indigenous people, is an extension of the work that Spirit does to maintain the pulse of nature. The villager's quest for

wholeness is an extension of nature's wholeness. For villagers, the product of any work must be engineered not only to serve the collective good but also to be an extension of the goodness of the collective.

-Malidoma Patrice Some, *The Healing Wisdom of Africa*

JUDAISM:

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be His own treasure, out of all peoples that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people--for ye were the fewest of all peoples--but because the LORD loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

-D'varim (Deuteronomy) 7:6-8 (mechon-mamre.org)

CHRISTIANITY:

The noble man receives and draws all his being, life, and bliss from God, by God, and in God alone and bare, and not from knowing, seeing, or loving God or anything like that. Therefore our Lord says in very truth that eternal life is knowing God alone as true God, and not in knowing that one knows God.

-Meister Eckhart, *The Nobleman* (trans. Walshe)

ISLAM:

O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may "get to" know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware. (al-`alīm, al-khabīr)
-Quran 49:13 (trans. Clear Quran)

TRUTH:

No sooner the soul has touched the inner kingdom, which is the divine kingdom, than the true nobility of the soul becomes manifest from that soul in the form of graciousness. The kings and those belonging to the aristocratic families were trained in the manner of graciousness. But it is born in the heart of humanity. This means every soul shows the aristocratic manner from the moment it touches the inner kingdom. This shows that the true aristocracy is the nobility of the soul, when the soul begins to express in every feeling, thought, word and action that graciousness which belongs to God Himself.