

## **Sincerity**

Integrity. Purity.

Universal Worship, June 13, 2021

### **HINDUISM:**

He who has let go of hatred  
who treats all beings with kindness  
and compassion, who is always serene,  
unmoved by pain or pleasure,  
free of the "I" and "mine,"  
self-controlled, firm and patient,  
his whole mind focused on me ---  
that is the man I love best.

— Bhagavad Gita

### **BUDDHISM:**

Going about with matted hair, without food or bath, sleeping on the ground smeared with dust or sitting motionless - no amount of penance can help a person whose mind is not purified. But those whose mind is serene and chaste, whose senses are controlled and whose life is nonviolent - these are true brahmins, true monks, even if they wear fine clothes.

-Dhammapada 141-142 (Eknath Easwaran)

### **ZOROASTRIANISM:**

O Mazda, may the people listen to the advice of the wise one who improves their life, and is righteous in thought, word and deed, and the one who in tune with Your Radiant Wisdom, uses his judgment on the basis of justice and fairness.

—The Gathas 4:19 (trans. K Khazai)

## TAOISM:

When you harmonize bitter enemies,  
yet resentment is sure to linger,  
how can this be called good?

Therefore sages keep their faith  
and do not pressure others.

So the virtuous see to their promises,  
while the virtueless look after precedents.

The Way of heaven is impersonal  
it is always with good people.

-Taoteching 79 (trans. Thomas Cleary)

## 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. How do villagers arrive at wholeness, at the happy goal of realizing their purpose and contributing to the healing of this world? By emphasizing service, community, and dedication to individual vision. Dedicating themselves to these values, indigenous people maintain an intimate connection between their work and the products of their work - a connection that for the industrialized West has been severed, as Marx was the first to note. 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:

According to Maimonides, four of the most important steps of teshuvah are the following:

Verbally confess your mistake and ask for forgiveness (Mishneh Torah 1:1).

Express sincere remorse, resolving not to make the same mistake again (Mishneh Torah 2:2).

Do everything in your power to “right the wrong,” to appease the person who has been hurt (Mishneh Torah 2:9).

Act differently if the same situation happens again (Mishneh Torah 2:1).

The fourth concept originates in the Talmud:

How is one to tell whether a penitent is genuine? Rabbi Judah said: When the penitent has the opportunity to commit the same sin once and once again and he refrains from committing it. - Yoma 86b

-(<https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/262459?lang=bi>)

## CHRISTIANITY:

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your

name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

-Matthew 7:15-23

ISLAM:

A believer, a man from among the people of Pharaoh, who had concealed his faith, said, Would you slay a man merely because he says, My Lord is God. He has brought you clear signs from your Lord, and if he is lying, the sin of his will be on his own head; but if he is truthful, a part of that of which he warns you will surely befall you. Certainly, God does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar

-Quran 40:28 (trans. W Khan)

TRUTH:

Truth is the share of the sincerest. The more sincerity is developed, the greater share of truth you will have. And however much sincerity a person may have, there is always a gap to fill, for we live in the midst of falsehood, and we are always apt to be carried away by this world of falsehood.

Therefore we must never think we are sincere enough, and we must always be on our guard against influences which may carry us away from that sincerity which is the bridge between ourselves and our ideal. No study, no meditation is more helpful than sincerity itself. It is by the love of truth that truth can be realized.