

April:

SOLIDARITY. Loyalty. Restorative justice.

HINDUISM

The Asuras were always at war with the Devas. Since the Devas always won, the Asuras were Jealous of them. Once they complained to Lord Brahma. "You always take their side that is why they do well in everything." The Lord replied "I treat everybody equally. The Devas do better because they are sincere in their work & they always think of others first." The Asuras did not believe this. To prove this point to them, Lord Brahma conducted a test in the form of a feast. He served Laddus to all of them & said, "Your test begins now. You should eat the Laddus without bending your elbows & your back." The Asuras sat to eat. They tried all means to eat the Laddus without bending their back & their elbows. But in the end, they gave up. Lord Brahma now called the Devas & put them through the same test. The humble Devas passed the test easily. Each Deva gave the Laddu to the one sitting opposite him. So their elbows & back remained straight. Lord Brahma told the Asuras, "Look, you all thought about yourself first, that is why you could not enjoy the feast. But the Devas thought of feeding others first & so everybody got to eat the Laddus." So those who think of the needs of others first & are not selfish, will always succeed.

-Traditional

BUDDHISM

One day, the Buddha went with Ananda to a monastery in Koshala. All the monks had gone out on alms round except one monk, who had dysentery. He was lying exhausted, his robes and bedding covered in filth. When the Buddha saw this, he asked, "Where have the other monks gone? Why is

no one looking after you?" The unwell monk replied, "Lord, all my brothers have gone out on alms round. At first, they looked after me, but when I was getting no better, I told them I would look after myself." The Buddha and Ananda bathed the monk, cleaned his room, washed his robes, and gave him a fresh robe to wear. When the monks returned, the Buddha said, "Friends, if we do not look after each other, who will look after us? When you look after each other, you are looking after the Buddha."
-Thich Nhat Hanh (adapted)

ZOROASTRIANISM

When shall I know that You rule over each one of us, O Mazda, O Asha? Resolve these my doubts quite openly and hasten to let the Saoshyant know from me words of equity woven into the very fabric of the Good Mind so that their blessing shall rest upon all people.
-Yasna 48:9 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

TAOISM

The way is the refuge for the myriad creatures.
It is that by which the good person protects,
And that by which the bad is protected.
Beautiful words when offered will win high rank in return;
Beautiful deeds can raise one above others.
Even if someone is not good, why should they be abandoned?
-Taoteching 62 (trans. DC Lau, adapted)

INDIGENOUS

This is indigenous land, you're not supposed to have walls here. We never did for a millennia. We never had a prison; we always took care of our elders, took care of our children, always provided for them, taught them right

from wrong. I wish I could see that energy... put that energy to making this country really, really great.”
-Nathan Phillips, Omaha tribe

JUDAISM

The daughters of Zelophehad, of Manassite family—son of Hephher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph—came forward. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the chieftains, and the whole assembly, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and they said,

“Our father died in the wilderness. He was not one of the faction, Korah’s faction, which banded together against the LORD, but died for his own sin; and he has left no sons. Let not our father’s name be lost to his clan just because he had no son! Give us a holding among our father’s kinsmen!”

Moses brought their case before the LORD.

And the LORD said to Moses,

“The plea of Zelophehad’s daughters is just: you should give them a hereditary holding among their father’s kinsmen; transfer their father’s share to them.

“Further, speak to the Israelite people as follows: ‘If a man dies without leaving a son, you shall transfer his property to his daughter.

If he has no daughter, you shall assign his property to his brothers.

If he has no brothers, you shall assign his property to his father’s brothers.

If his father had no brothers, you shall assign his property to his nearest relative in his own clan, and he shall inherit it.’ This shall be the law of procedure for the Israelites, in accordance with the LORD’s command to Moses.” -

Numbers 27:1-11

CHRISTIANITY

[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.

-Saint John Paul II, *Encyclical Sollicitudo rei socialis*

ISLAM

Surely all believers are brothers. So make peace between your brothers, and fear God, so that mercy may be shown to you.

-Quran 49:10 (trans. W Khan)

TRUTH

There is no doubt everyone more or less loves the idea of brotherhood. I don't say this is true of a person who is not sane, but a normal person cannot deny that the ideal of brotherhood is the only ideal which can be called religious or spiritual. The question is how to practice this ideal which is easy to know. The difficulty is that practice needs sacrifice, needs humility, needs endurance, needs patience, needs forgiveness, needs brotherly sympathy for every soul who stands near one. It is the power of love alone which will raise us through the pettiness of human nature to rise to this ideal, the true purpose of the soul.

(adapted for gender)