

## **PERSEVERANCE.**

### **Patience. Long-Term Visioning.**

Universal Worship, December 12, 2021

#### **HINDUISM:**

Those who are low grade do not start any work, scared of the obstacles that they will face in accomplishing their task. The medium grade people start their tasks, but then stop before completing them when they encounter difficulties on the way. But the highest category of people never give up once they have started a task and do not stop before completing it despite numerous obstacles on their way.  
-Nitiśataka of Bhartrihari

#### **BUDDHISM:**

Matajuro Yagyū was the son of a famous swordsman. His father, believing that his son's work was too mediocre to anticipate mastership, disowned him. So Matajuro went to Mount Futara and there found the famous swordsman Banzo. But Banzo confirmed the father's judgment. "You wish to learn swordsmanship under my guidance?" asked Banzo. "You cannot fulfill the requirements."  
"But if I work hard, how many years will it take me to become a master?" persisted the youth.  
"The rest of your life," replied Banzo.  
"I cannot wait that long," explained Matajuro. "I am willing to pass through any hardship if only you will teach me. If I become your devoted servant, how long might it be?"  
"Oh, maybe ten years," Banzo relented.  
"My father is getting old, and soon I must take care of him," continued Matajuro. "If I work far more intensively, how long would it take me?"  
"Oh, maybe thirty years," said Banzo.  
"Why is that?" asked Matajuro. "First you say ten and now thirty years. I will undergo any hardship to master this art in the shortest time!"

“Well,” said Banzo, “in that case you will have to remain with me for seventy years. A man in such a hurry as you are to get results seldom learns quickly.”

“Very well,” declared the youth, understanding at last that he was being rebuked for impatience, “I agree.”

Matajuro was told never to speak of fencing and never to touch a sword. He cooked for his master, washed the dishes, made his bed, cleaned the yard, cared for the garden, all without a word of swordsmanship.

Three years passed. Still Matajuro labored on. Thinking of his future, he was sad. He had not even begun to learn the art to which he had devoted his life.

But one day Banzo crept up behind him and gave him a terrific blow with a wooden sword.

The following day, when Matajuro was cooking rice, Banzo again sprang upon him unexpectedly.

After that, day and night, Matajuro had to defend himself from unexpected thrusts. Not a moment passed in any day that he did not have to think of the taste of Banzo’s sword. He learned so rapidly he brought smiles to the face of his master. Matajuro became the greatest swordsman in the land.

-from *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*

#### ZOROASTRIANISM:

So understand, O mortals, the Decrees which Mazda has ordained regarding happiness and misery. There will be a long period of suffering for the wicked, and rewards for the pious, but thereafter eternal joy shall reign everywhere.

-Yasna 30:11 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

#### TAOISM:

What you plant well can't be uprooted  
what you hold well can't be taken away  
your descendants will worship this forever  
cultivated in yourself virtue becomes real  
cultivated in your family virtue grows  
cultivated in your village virtue multiplies  
cultivated in your state virtue abounds

cultivated in your world virtue is everywhere  
thus view others through yourself  
view families through your family  
view villages through your village  
view states through your state  
view other worlds through your world  
how do you know what other worlds are like  
through this one  
-Taoteching 54 (trans. Red Pine)

#### INDIGENOUS:

Crazy Horse dreamed and went into the world where there is nothing but the spirits of things. That is the real world that is behind this one, and everything we see here is something like a shadow from that world...It was this vision that gave him his great power, for when he went into a fight, he had only to think of that world to be in it again, so that he could go through anything and not be hurt.  
– Black Elk

#### JUDAISM:

Trust no friend,  
Rely on no intimate;  
Be guarded in speech  
With her who lies in your bosom.  
For son spurns father,  
Daughter rises up against mother,  
Daughter-in-law against mother-in-law—  
A man's own household  
Are his enemies.  
Yet I will look to the LORD,  
I will wait for the God who saves me,  
My God will hear me.  
Do not rejoice over me,  
O my enemy!  
Though I have fallen, I rise again;  
Though I sit in darkness, the LORD is my light.  
-Micah 7:5-8 (trans. sefaria.org)

## CHRISTIANITY:

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

-Luke 18:1-8 (NASB 1995)

## ISLAM:

Nor can goodness and evil be equal. Repel the evil deed with one that is better: then lo! He with whom you shared enmity will become as though he were a bosom friend. And no one will be granted such goodness except those who exercise patience and self-restraint, none but persons of the greatest good fortune. And if an incitement to discord is made to thee by the Evil One, seek refuge in Allah. He is the One who hears and knows all things.

-Qur'an 41:34-35 (trans. Yusuf Ali)

## TRUTH:

No matter what a person is striving for, if they persevere continually without fail, they are coming closer and closer to the will of God.