

ENCOUNTERING THE INFINITE.

The Humanist Tradition.

Universal Worship, July 11, 2022

The humanist tradition has transformed our public, domestic, private, and spiritual life. This is a movement of the Divine Mother in the world inasmuch as our awareness has turned to the development of health and medicine, education and development, and salvation and enlightenment.

HINDUISM:

Be one to whom a mother is as god,

be one to whom a father is as god,

Be one to whom a teacher is as god,

be one to whom a guest is as god.

Let your actions be uncensurable, none else.

Those acts that you consider good when done to you,
do those to others, none else.

— Taittirīya Upanishad, I.11.2 (Trans. SS Sastri)

BUDDHISM:

The Beloved of the Gods, the king Piyadassi, wishes that all sects may dwell in all places, for all seek self-control and purity of mind.

-Ashoka, Major Rock Edict No.7 (trans. Romila Thapar)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

Give ear to the Highest. Look within with enlightened mind at the faith of your own selection, person by person, each one for their own self. Awake, to proclaim this, our Truth, before the great and Final Consummation is upon you.

The goodly power of free choice is a dispensation surpassing all others. By means of our discriminating acts, it fulfils even our deepest desire through Truth. From this very moment, O Mazda, I will practise that which is the best for us.

-Yasna 30:2 and 51:1 (trans.adapted from Bode)

TAOISM:

Master Ssu, Master Yu, Master Li, Master Lai were all four talking together. "Who can look upon non-being as their head, on life as their back, and on death as their rump?" they said. "Who knows that life and death, existence and annihilation, are all a single body? I will be their friend!" The four looked at each other and smiled. There was no disagreement in their hearts and so the four of them became friends.

Chuang-tze 6:5 (trans. Burton Watson)

INDIGENOUS:

Human beings gather knowledge basically for two purposes: survival and meaning. We try to understand and come to grips with the environment in order to survive. And we try to find reasons for our survival that go beyond the intuitive reaction to physical threats. This is in short the basis for all kind of activities which aim at building up knowledge systems. Long before the development of modern science, which is quite young, indigenous peoples have developed their ways of knowing how to survive and also of ideas about meanings, purposes and values.

...Indigenous peoples view the world we live in as an integrated whole. Our beliefs, knowledge, arts and other forms of cultural expression have been handed down through the generations. Integrated in these elements is the knowledge.

-INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS - THE TRUE ROOTS OF HUMANISM

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JUDAISM:

Rabban Shimon ben Gamaliel used to say: on three things does the world stand: On justice, on truth and on peace, as it is said: "execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates" (Zechariah 8:16).

-Pirkei Avot 1:18 (trans. Joshua Kulp)

CHRISTIANITY:

The dignity of the individual and the demands of justice require, particularly today, that economic choices do not cause disparities in wealth to increase in an excessive and morally unacceptable manner.

(Pope Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth [Caritas in Veritate], no. 32)

Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are.

(St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year [Centesimus annus], no. 11)

ISLAM:

O you who have faith, stand firm for Allah as witnesses in equity (qist), and let not the hatred of people cause you to not be just. Be just ('idlu), for that is nearer to righteousness. -Surat al-Ma'idah 5:8 (trans. ?)

TRUTH:

Love is the divine Mother's arms; when those arms are spread, every soul falls into them... What did Jesus teach when he said to the fishermen, 'Come hither, I will make you fishers of men?' It did not mean, 'I will teach you ways by which you get the best of man.' It only meant: your tact, your sympathy will spread its arms before every soul who comes, as mother's arms are spread out for her little ones.