

ENCOUNTERING THE INFINITE.
The Divine Mother as Destroyer.
Universal Worship, September 10, 2022

HINDUISM:

Why is Mother Kali so radiantly black?
Because she is so powerful,
Even mentioning her name destroys delusion.
Because she is so beautiful,
Lord Shiva, Conqueror of Death,
Lies blissfully vanquished
Beneath her red-soled feet.
-Ramprasad Sen (trans. Hixon)

BUDDHISM:

‘Breathing in and out, I am aware of the fact that I am of the nature to die; I cannot escape dying. I am of the nature to grow old; I cannot escape old age. I am of the nature to get sick. Because I have a body, I cannot avoid sickness. Everything I cherish, treasure and cling to today, I will have to abandon one day. The only thing I can carry with me is the fruit of my own action. I cannot bring along with me anything else except the fruit of my actions in terms of thought, speech and bodily acts.’
-Thich Nhat Hanh (Chant recited daily in Buddhist monasteries)

We are often sad and suffer a lot when things change, but change and impermanence have a positive side. Thanks to impermanence, everything is possible. Life itself is possible. If a grain of corn is not impermanent, it can never be transformed into

a stalk of corn. If the stalk were not impermanent, it could never provide us with the ear of corn we eat. If your daughter is not impermanent, she cannot grow up to become a woman. Then your grandchildren would never manifest. So instead of complaining about impermanence, we should say, 'Warm welcome and long live impermanence.' We should be happy. When we can see the miracle of impermanence, our sadness and suffering will pass.
-Thich Nhat Hanh, *No Death, No Fear*

ZOROASTRIANISM:

This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura; How shall we dispel the Spirit of Untruth from among us? Let it be with the unfaithful and the disobedient, Who strive not to be the companions of Truth, Who care not to listen to the counsels of the Good Mind.
This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura; How shall I deliver Evil into the hands of Righteousness? How shall I render it ineffective through the holy words of Thy Teaching? How shall I frustrate the followers of Evil, O Mazda, That they come to their blind extinction?

Gathas 44:13-14 (trans. DJ Irani)

TAOISM:

When the government is lazy and dull, Its people are unspoiled; When the government is efficient and smart, Its people are discontented.

Disaster is the avenue of fortune, (And) fortune is the concealment for disaster.

Who would be able to know its ultimate results?

-Tao Te Ching 58 (trans. Lin Yutang)

INDIGENOUS:

When the sun died, I went up to heaven and saw God and all the people who had died a long time ago. God told me to come back and tell my people they must be good and love one another, and not fight, or steal, or lie. He gave me this dance to give to my people.

-Wovoka

JUDAISM:

The way of the LORD is a stronghold for the blameless,
But a ruin for evildoers.

-Proverbs 10:29 (sefaria.org)

CHRISTIANITY:

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

-Matthew 7:13-14

ISLAM:

To God true faith is submission, and those who received the Book differed only after receiving knowledge out of contention. God will be swift in reckoning with those who deny His revelations.

-Quran 3:19 (trans. Safi Kaskas)

For, if one goes in search of a religion other than self-surrender unto God, it will never be accepted

from them, and in the life to come they shall be among the lost.

-Quran 3:85 (trans. M. Asad)

TRUTH:

There is a time when one finger is cut off, and a time when the whole hand is lost. There is a time when one limb perishes, and a time when the whole body is dead. There is a time when one thing in the room is broken, another when everything in the room is smashed, another when the whole house is ruined, another time when the whole city, or the whole country is destroyed. So there is a time when the whole world is destroyed, even the universe; but this comes over a much longer period of time.