

# Surrendering the Heart

Universal Worship, July 9, 2023

## HINDUISM:

I bow to those who,  
Going nowhere and renouncing nothing,  
Yet view all this as your glorious abode.

What else remains to be desired  
By those rolling in the wealth of devotion?  
For those deprived of it,  
What else is worthy of desire?

Where even agonies transform into pleasure  
And poison into nectar,  
Where the world itself becomes liberation,  
That is the path of Śankara.

In the beginning, the middle, or the final stages,  
There is no pain for your devotees, O Lord.  
Still, we are suffering.  
What is this? Tell me!

-Shivastotravali of Utpaladeva 20:10-13 (trans. Bially)

## BUDDHISM:

Forgetting all knowledge at one stroke,  
I do not need cultivation anymore.  
Activity expressing the ancient road,  
I don't fall into passivity.  
Everywhere trackless, conduct beyond sound and form;  
The adepts in all places call this the supreme state.

-Kyōgen (trans. Thomas Cleary)

## ZOROASTRIANISM:

And thus may we be like the Lords of Wisdom and of Life who make ever fresh and reclaim this our life on earth. And may we become the bearers of universal love through Asha, Divine Harmony, so that, in single-minded concentration, we may abide where Chisti, that Ray of Perceptive Wisdom, takes up her stand.

-Gathas 30:9 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

## TAOISM:

Stop being holy, forget being prudent,  
it'll be a hundred times better for everyone.  
Stop being altruistic, forget being righteous,  
people will remember what family feeling is.  
Stop planning, forget making a profit,  
there won't be any thieves and robbers.  
But even these three rules  
needn't be followed; what works reliably  
is to know the raw silk,  
hold the uncut wood.  
Need little, want less.  
Forget the rules.  
Be untroubled.

-Tao Te Ching (trans. Ursula LeGuin)

## INDIGENOUS:

And while I stood there, I saw more than I can tell and understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw that the sacred hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy.

-Black Elk, Oglala Lakota

## JUDAISM:

At present, during the exile of this folk, counsel is offered to bring a mite of the illumination of the Light of G-d from the state of Eitan [the state where one experiences the radiance of the supernal wisdom] into the core of the depth of the heart, in the fashion of the Time to Come. This is through arousing the plenteous mercies above for the G-dly spark within his soul. For in truth, so long as man does not merit the revelation of the light of G-d of the state of Eitan in the core of the inwardness of his heart, to become nullified in His unity, blessed be He, until the very expiration of the soul, then it is indeed a great pity on the spark within his soul. For that spark is drawn from the state of the supernal wisdom itself, and when it cannot illuminate from its own state into the internality of the heart, which is the proper place for the revelation of this Light, then it is actually in exile.

-Tanya, Part V; Kuntres Acharon 7:2-3 (trans. Kehot Publication Society)

## CHRISTIANITY:

And, after this, there follows the third way of feeling; namely, that we feel ourselves to be one with God; for, through the transformation in God, we feel ourselves to be swallowed up in the fathomless abyss of our eternal blessedness, wherein we can nevermore find any distinction between ourselves and God. And this is our highest feeling, which we cannot experience in any other way than in the immersion in love. And therefore, so soon as we are uplifted and drawn into our highest feeling, all our powers stand idle in an essential fruition; but our powers do not pass away into nothingness, for then we should lose our created being. And as long as

we stand idle, with an inclined spirit, and with open eyes, but without reflection, so long we can contemplate and have fruition. But, at the very moment in which we seek to prove and to comprehend what it is that we feel, we fall back into reason, and there we find a distinction and an otherness between ourselves and God, and find God outside ourselves in incomprehensibility.

-from The Sparkling Stone, ch. 20, John Ruysbroek (trans. Wynschenk)

ISLAM:

Were I lip to lip with one who breathes with me  
I would tell all that should be told, like the reed.  
Anyone parted from those who speak their tongue  
Though they may know a hundred songs, have no tongue.

When the garden fades and the rose is no more  
You will hear the nightingale's story no more.

All is the beloved, the lover a screen;

The beloved lives, the lover's a dead thing.

When there is no appetite for love in them

They are left there like a bird without a wing.

How should I sense what's before me or behind

When my friend's light is not there fore or behind?

Love desires that this I say should be brought out.

What's a mirror if it won't bring secrets out?

-Masnavi I:27-33 (trans. adapted from Victoria Holbrook)

TRUTH:

This dual aspect of love, which is expressed as lover and beloved, is in fact one. And one will die and One alone will live. The one that will die is the imperfect self which covers perfection; the One that will live is the perfect Self.