

TRANSFORMING THE BODY, HEART, & MIND

Dissolving the Mind.

Universal Worship, September 10, 2023

HINDUISM:

Even the deadly poison
That rests in a corner of your throat, O Lord,
Is supreme nectar to me.
Nectar that is separate from your body,
Even if easily accessible,
Doesn't interest me.

May my countenance be ever flushed with excitement
From talking and singing about you.
And may I ever be blessed with the desire
To perform your worship of love.

Oh, the ways of the Supreme Lord
Cannot be reckoned!
He has presented me his own being,
Bursting with sweet, immortal nectar,
But yet does not allow me
To drink.

Entering you, my own being,
The fathomless, the undifferentiated,
The one without a second,
Devouring all sense of (subject and) object,
O Lord of Uma,
Ever may I worship and sing praises of you.
-Shivastotravali 13:17-20 (trans. Bailly)

BUDDHISM:

Although apparent phenomena manifest as diversity ---
yet this diversity is non-dual.
And of all the multiplicity
of individual things that exist,
none can be confined in a limited concept.
Staying free from the trap of any attempt
to say 'it's like this', or 'like that',
it becomes clear that all manifested forms are

aspects of the infinite formless,
and, indivisible from it,
are self-perfected.

Seeing that everything is self-perfected
from the very beginning,
the disease of striving for any achievement
is surrendered,
and just remaining in the natural state
as it is,
the presence of non-dual contemplation
continuously spontaneously arises.

-The Six Vajra Verses (Quoted in Namkhai Norbu's *The Crystal and the Way of Light*)

A Zen Master said, "Birth and death, coming and going, are the real human body."

Another Zen Master said, "Birth and death, coming and going, are the real body."

A third Zen Master said, "Birth and death, coming and going, are the real human being."

Yet another Zen Master said, "Birth and death, coming and going, are the real true body of the Buddhas."

Four masters each express it in their own way. All of them have straight nostrils, and they said it all right; but that's not quite it. If you asked me, I would not agree. Birth and death, coming and going, are just birth and death, coming and going.

-Dogen, *Universal Book of Eternal Peace* (trans. Cleary)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

Mazda most wise, is the Supreme Knower of all actions performed in the past, and indeed of those which will be performed in the future, by the demonic ones and by humanity. Of all these, He Himself is the discriminating Lord. Be it with us as He wills.

-Gathas 29:4 (trans. Bode, adapted)

TAOISM:

The Way is unimpeded harmony;
its potential may never be fully exploited.
It is as deep as the source of all things:
it blunts the edges,
resolves the complications,
harmonizes the light,

assimilates the world.

Profoundly still, it seems to be there:

I don't know whose child it is,
before the creation of images.

-Taoteching 4 (trans. Thomas Cleary)

INDIGENOUS:

This is the account, here it is:

Now it still ripples, now it still murmurs, ripples, it still sighs, still hums, and it is empty under the sky.

Here follow the first words, the first eloquence:

There is not yet one person, one animal, bird, fish, crab, tree, rock, hollow, canyon, meadow, forest. Only the sky alone is there; the face of the earth is not clear. Only the sea alone is pooled under all the sky; there is nothing whatever gathered together. It is at rest; not a single thing stirs. It is black, kept at rest under the sky.

Whatever there is that might be is simply not there: only the pooled water, only the calm sea, only it alone is pooled..

Whatever might be is simply not there: only murmurs, ripples, in the dark, in the night.

-Popol Vuh(trans. Dennis Tedlock)

JUDAISM:

God endowed us with the intellect which is the means of our comprehension, and which on account of its insufficiency to form a true idea of God has become the source of great doubts; that He therefore knows what our defects are, and how worthless the doubts are which originate in our faulty reasoning. The Psalmist therefore says: "He who teaches man knowledge, the Lord, knoweth the thoughts of man that they are vanity" [xciv. 10-11].

-Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed, Pt III Ch. 19* (trans. Friedlander)

CHRISTIANITY:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 4:4-7

ISLAM:

Before this there was one heart
but a thousand thoughts
Now all is reduced to
There is no love but Love.

-Fakhruddin 'Iraqi (trans. Chittick and Wilson)

While worldly signs are illuminated by the Essence,
the Essence is not illuminated through these signs.

All of the world has appeared by His Light,
yet how can He be revealed through the world?

The Essential Light is not in the manifestations.

Its glorious Majesty would devastate them.

Let go of your intellect and be with the Real.

A bat's eye cannot bear the sun's brilliance.

-Mahmud Shabistari (trans. Darr)

TRUTH:

The soul with mind is as water with salt. Mind comes from soul as salt from water. There comes a time when mind is absorbed into soul, as salt is dissolved in water. Mind is the outcome of soul, as salt is the outcome of water. Soul can exist without mind, but mind cannot exist without soul. But the soul is purer without mind, and is covered by the mind.

The mind covering the soul is as a globe: a sinful mind makes the soul sinful, a virtuous mind makes the soul virtuous, not in nature but in effect, as a red globe on the light makes the light red, and a green globe makes it look green, though, in reality, the light is neither green nor red. It is devoid of color, color being only its garb.