

Harmonizing the Heart

Universal Worship, November 12, 2023

HINDUISM:

O Three-eyed One!

Transcending speech and empirical knowledge,

Let me, without obstacles,

Behold only you, Lord,

Everywhere, all the time,

Even when emotionally agitated.

-Shivastotravali 12:14 (trans. Bailly)

BUDDHISM:

Before I had studied Zen for thirty years, I saw mountains as mountains and rivers as rivers when I arrived at a more intimate knowledge, I came to the point where I saw that mountains are not mountains, and rivers are not rivers. But now that I have got its very substance I am at rest. For it's just that I see mountains once again as mountains and rivers once again as rivers.

-Qingyuan Weixin, 9th century Buddhist teacher (trans. A. Watts)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

Each person shall act in full agreement with these principles which are the Primal Laws of Life; and so shall the Ratu, the True Human, behave, with the utmost circumspection, in justice towards the Follower of the Lie and the Follower of the Truth, and also to those in whom falsehood and truth are exactly balanced.

-Gathas 33:1 (trans. Bode, adapted)

TAOISM:

Heaven is eternal, earth is everlasting.
The reason they can be eternal and everlasting
is that they do not foster themselves;
that is why they can live forever.
For this reason sages put themselves last,
and they were first;
they excluded themselves,
and they survived.
Was it not by their very selflessness
that they managed to fulfill themselves?
-Taoteching 7 (trans. Cleary)

INDIGENOUS:

Behold, the Spring has come; the earth has
received the embraces of the sun and we shall soon
see the results of that love!
Every seed is awakened and so has all animal life.
It is through this mysterious power that we too have
our being, and we therefore yield to our neighbors,
even our animal neighbors, the same right as
ourselves, to inhabit this land.
-Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Sioux

JUDAISM:

You have been told, O mortal, what is good,
And what GOD requires of you:
Only to do justice
And to love goodness,
And to walk modestly with your God;
-Micah 6:8 (trans. Revised JPS, 2023)

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

-Rabbi Tarfon, Pirkei Avot

CHRISTIANITY:

You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

-Matthew 5:38–42 (trans. ESV)

ISLAM:

For slaves of the Most Gracious are they who walk gently on earth, and who, whenever the foolish address them, reply with words of peace;

-Quran 25:63 (trans. Muhammad Asad, adapted)

TRUTH:

The secret of seeking the will of God lies in cultivating the faculty of sensing harmony. For harmony is beauty and beauty is harmony, and the lover of beauty in their further progress becomes the seeker of harmony; and by trying always to maintain harmony, one will tune their heart to the will of God.