

# Recreating the Mind

Universal Worship, December 10, 2023

## HINDUISM:

Every moment, while beholding different objects,  
Let me clearly see you and you alone, O Lord,  
As assuming the form of the whole universe.  
Why does my mind not view  
The various objects of my desire  
As not different from the limbs of your body?  
In so doing, it would not lose its nature  
And my highest desire would also be realized.  
Hundreds indeed are those, O Lord,  
Who through your inspiration  
While living the lives of average people  
Perceive just through these very eyes  
Your form ever before them.  
Not a thought arises  
That does not constitute your will.  
All acts, favorable or otherwise,  
Are always performed by the Lord himself.  
Thus abiding in you, I wander through the world.  
-Śivastotravali 12:19-22 (trans. Bailly)

## BUDDHISM:

The Pure Lotus Land is not far away.  
Hearing this truth, heart humble and grateful.  
To praise and embrace it, to practice its Wisdom,  
brings unending blessings. bring mountains of merit.  
And if we turn inward and prove our True Nature, that  
True Self is no-self, our own self is no-self,  
we go beyond ego and past clever words.  
Then the gate to the oneness of cause-and-effect  
is thrown open.  
Not two and not three, straight ahead runs the Way.  
Our form now being no-form,  
in going and returning we never leave home.  
Our thought now being no-thought, our dancing and songs  
are the Voice of the Dharma.

How vast is the heaven of boundless Samadhi!  
How bright and transparent the moonlight of wisdom!  
What is there outside us? What is there we lack?  
Nirvana is openly shown to our eyes.  
This earth where we stand is the pure lotus land!  
And this very body, the body of Buddha.  
-Hakuin Zenji (trans. Zen Buddhist Order of Hsu Yun)

#### ZOROASTRIANISM:

O living God, the greatest among the great, and of one  
accord with Thy Supreme Law, I entreat Thee, as a lover,  
bestow upon the manly Frashaoshtra, my kinsman, and  
upon me, and even on these others, the rest of my followers,  
the possession of the Good Mind for all time.  
-Gathas 28:8 (trans. Bode, adapted)

#### TAOISM:

All the world knows beauty  
but if that becomes beautiful  
this becomes ugly  
all the world knows good  
but if that becomes good  
this becomes bad  
have and have not create each other  
hard and easy produce each other  
long and short shape each other  
high and low complete each other  
note and noise accompany each other  
first and last follow each other  
sages therefore perform effortless deeds [wu-wei]  
and teach wordless lessons  
they don't look after all the things that arise  
or depend on them as they develop  
or claim them when they reach perfection  
and because they don't claim them  
they are never without them  
-Taoteching 2 (trans. Red Pine)

## INDIGENOUS:

When we use the water in the sweat lodge we should think of Wakan-Tanka, who is always flowing, giving His power and life to everything... The round fire place at the center of the sweat lodge is the center of the universe, in which dwells Wakan-Tanka, with His power which is the fire. All these things are Wakan [holy and mystery] and must be understood deeply if we really wish to purify ourselves, for the power of a thing or an act is in the meaning and the understanding.

-Black Elk

## JUDAISM:

And there may be an individual who, through their apprehension of the true realities and their joy in what they have apprehended, achieve a state in which they talk with people and are occupied with their bodily necessities while their intellect is wholly turned toward Him, may He be exalted, so that in their heart they are always in His presence, may He be exalted, while outwardly they are with people, in the sort of way described by the poetical parables that have been invented for these notions: *I sleep, but my heart wakes; it is the voice of my beloved that knocks*, and so on.

-Maimonides (trans. Shlomo Pines)

## CHRISTIANITY:

Surely I know the spring that swiftly flows even during the night.

The eternal spring is deeply hidden, but surely I know the place where it begins even during the night.

I don't know its source because it has none but know that all beginnings come from this one, even during the night.

I do know that nothing can equal its beauty and that from it both heaven and earth drink even during the night.

-St. John of the Cross (trans. Krabbenhoft)

## ISLAM:

Since His works are manifested from His essence,  
His essence is not manifested from His works.  
The whole universe is exposed to view by His light,  
But how is He exposed to view in the universe ?  
The light of His essence is not contained in phenomena,  
For the glory of His majesty is exceeding great.  
Let reason go, and abide in "The Truth."  
The eye of a bat endures not the bright sun.  
In that place where God's light is our guide,  
What room is there for the message of Gabriel?  
-Mahmud Shabistari, *Gulshan I Raz 112-118* (trans.  
Whinfield)

## TRUTH:

When one reaches this third stage, the stage of understanding, one begins to understand instead of reacting. Then there is no reaction: understanding comes and suppresses it. It is just like a boat which is anchored; it produces tranquility, stillness, weight in the personality. It does not move with every wind that blows, but stays like a heavy ship on the water, while a light ship moves with every wave that comes. That stability a person reaches in this third stage of unfoldment; he is ready to tolerate, to understand both the wise and the foolish – all.