

Universal Worship
May 12, 2024
Our Relationship with the Ancestors

Hinduism

Never swerve from the rites due to the gods, and to the ancestors. Let thy mother be to thee a god; let thy father be a god to thee; a god let thy teacher be unto thee, and let thy guest be unto thee a god. Let only those works be done by thee that are free from blemishes, and not others. Only those deeds of ours should be followed by thee, that is good, and not others.

Taittiriya Upanishad 1.11

Buddhism

Better than a thousand ritual sacrifices
Offered every month for a hundred years
Is one moment's homage offered
To one who has cultivated herself.
Better than a hundred years
In the forest tending a ritual fire
Is one moment's homage offered
To one who has cultivated himself.

Dhammapada 106-107

Zoroastrian

We worship the spirit, conscience, perception, soul, and Fravashi (the preexisting external higher soul or essence

of a person) of men of the primitive law, of the first who listened to the teaching (of Ahura), holy men and holy women, who struggled for holiness; we worship the spirit, conscience, perception, soul, and Fravashi of our next-of-kin, holy men and holy women, who struggled for holiness.

Avesta XXX 149

Taoism

The ancient masters of the Way
aimed at the indiscernible
and penetrated the dark
you would never know them
and because you wouldn't know them
I describe them with reluctance
they were careful as if crossing a river in winter
cautious as if worried about neighbors
reserved like guests
ephemeral like melting ice
simple like uncarved wood
open like valleys
and murky like puddles
but a puddle becomes clear when it's still
and stillness becomes alive when it's roused
those who treasure this Way
don't try to be full
not trying to be full
they can hide and stay hidden

Taoteching 15 (trans. Red Pine)

Indigenous

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground they spit upon themselves. This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Chief Seattle

Judaism

Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12

Christianity

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins,

he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3

Islam

Say: "We believe in God, and in that which has been bestowed from on high upon us, and that which has been bestowed upon Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and ,their descendants, and that which has been vouchsafed to Moses and Jesus; and that which has been vouchsafed to all the [other] prophets by their Sustainer: we make no distinction between any of them. And it is unto Him that we surrender ourselves."

Quran 2:136 (trans. Muhammad Asad)

Truth

Every person inherits from their ancestors not only their body, but their mind also.

Gayan, Hazrat Inayat Khan