

# Universal Worship

## “The Ideal”

### June 9, 2024

#### HINDUISM

That Self is indeed Brahman, consisting of knowledge, mind, life, sight, hearing, earth, water, wind, ether, light and no light, desire and no desire, anger and no anger, right or wrong, and all things. Now as someone is like this or like that, according as they act and according as they behave, so will they be: one of good acts will become good, one of bad acts, bad. They become pure by pure deeds, bad by bad deeds.

And here they say that a person consists of desires. And as is their desire, so is their will; and as is their will, so is their deed; and whatever deed they do, that they will reap.

-Brihadaranyaka-Upanishad: Fourth Adhyâya, Fourth Brahmana (trans. Max Müller, adapted for gender)

#### BUDDHISM

“I am the great and glorious Heruka!  
My food is the life-force of living beings,  
My seat, the three worlds and three planes of existence.  
I am the Guru. I am the Yidam.  
I am Samantabhadra, the mighty Vajradhara.  
Without me, in the time before me,  
There was no saṃsāra, no transcendence.  
Now, the phenomena of saṃsāra and nirvāṇa  
Are all perfect within me, the great Heruka.  
The blazing fire mountain is my realm.  
The vīras and ḍākinīs are my retinue.

The Great Perfection is my Dharma.

I am the Heruka of equalness and perfection.”

-quoted by Khenpo Shenga (1871–1927) in *Advice on Yidam Practice*

## ZOROASTRIANISM

Each person shall act in full agreement with these principles which are the Primal Laws of Life; and so shall the True Human (Ratu) behave, with the utmost circumspection, in justice towards the Follower of the False and the Follower of Righteousness, and also to those in whom falsehood and truth are exactly balanced. Hence, whoever toils with word or thought or the actions of both hands to drive out evil from the Follower of the False, or directs their fellowman towards the good, such accomplish the Divine Will out of love for the living God of Life and Wisdom.

-Yasna 33:1-2 (trans. Bode, adapted)

## TAOISM

In ancient times

the perfect officer wasn't armed

the perfect warrior wasn't angry

the perfect victor wasn't hostile

the perfect commander acted humble

this is the virtue of nonaggression

this is using the strength of others

this is uniting with Heaven

which was the ancient end

-Taoteching 68 (trans. Red Pine)

## INDIGENOUS

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over;

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over.

*A good nation I have asked to be made over.*

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over;

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over.

*A sacred nation I have asked to be made over.*

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over;

May you behold this-

I have asked to be made over.

-Nicholas Black Elk

## JUDAISM

The experience of prophecy must come about through intermediaries. A person cannot attach himself directly to God's Glory, or perceive it as one sees someone standing in front of them. The perception of God involved in true prophecy must therefore come about through God's servants, whose task it is to provide such a vision.

These intermediaries then act as lenses through which one sees the Glory. What a prophet actually perceives, however, is the Glory itself, and not something else. The way one sees it, however, depends on the particular intermediary involved, just as what one would see through a lens would depend on the particular kind of lens.

There are therefore many degrees of perception, depending on the lens involved. It may cause the subject to appear far away or very close. There can furthermore be various degrees of transparency or opaqueness in the lens itself.

-Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, *The Way of God*, III.3:5  
(trans. Kaplan, adapted for gender)

## CHRISTIANITY

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

-John 8:12 (NKJV)

## ISLAM

The Prophet said: It is a commendable custom [sunna] to accompany the guest to the door of the house.

-Hadith quoted in Suhrawardi's *Kitab Adab al-Muridin*

## TRUTH

Shatter your ideals on the rock of truth.

Let your virtues dissolve in the sea of purity.

Make your doctrines fuel for the higher intelligence.