

**UW readings**  
**Confession & Forgiveness**  
**July 14, 2024**

**Hinduism**

Even sinners become holy when they take refuge in me alone. Quickly their souls conform to dharma and they attain to boundless peace. Never forget this, Arjuna: no one who is devoted to me will ever come to harm.

Bhagavad Gita 9:30-31 (Eknath Easwaran translation)

**Buddhism**

While believing that even the man who is so sinful that he has committed the ten evil deeds and the five deadly sins may be born into the Pure Land, as far as you are concerned, be not guilty of even the smallest sins.

A Treasury of Traditional Wisdom (Honen, p. 60)

**Zoroastrianism**

The law of Mazda indeed, O Spitama Zarathustra! takes away from him who confesses it the bonds of his sin; it takes away the sin of breach of trust; it takes away the sin of murdering one of the faithful; it takes away the sin of burying a corpse; it takes away the sin of deeds for which there is no atonement; it takes away the heaviest penalties of sin; it takes away any sin that may be sinned.

The Zend-Avesta: The Vendîdâd, Oxford, 1880 (James Darmesteter translation, p. 101)

## **Taoism**

While keeping my physical frame I lost sight of my real self.  
Gazing at Muddy Water, I lost sight of the clear abyss.

A Treasury of Traditional Wisdom (Chuang Tze p. 69)

## **Indigenous**

We ask for forgiveness for our failure to appreciate God's abundant blessings upon us, to cherish our uniqueness and the distinctive place of Mama Africa in human history; the land of abundance that has sustained most of the world for many millennia and continues to provide vital resources for humanity. Forgive us for rejecting ourselves and the liberators you send to us, our lack of unity, and our contributions to undermining our development. Forgive our leaders for their failures to work for the common good, for mortgaging the heritage of Africans to dishonest exploiters; for embracing policies that cripple Mama Africa and drive her children to perilous ventures in search for greener pastures, drowning in the Mediterranean, trapped in slavery, deprived of their dignity, treated as disposable goods and slaughtered for their organs.

Indigenous African prayer for communal forgiveness. (African Faith & Justice Network, <http://afjn.org/>)

## **Judaism**

Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not maintain His anger forever, for He desires loving-kindness.

Micah 7:18

When a man's ways please the LORD, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Proverbs 16:7

### **Christianity**

The more grievous all man's sins seem to him, the more ready God is to forgive them, to enter the soul and drive them out; for everyone is most diligent in getting rid of what is most disagreeable to him. The more in number a man's sins are, the greater they are, the more immeasurably glad God is to forgive them. The more they irk him, the quicker he is about it. The sooner divine repentance reaches up to God, the sooner the sins are swallowed up in the abyss of God-as quickly as I can shut my eyes. They are annihilated as if they had never happened, only the repentance be whole.

Meister Eckhart

### **Muslim**

O those who have believed! Be Godfearing of God and believe in His messenger. He will give you a like part of His mercy. And He has assigned you a light to walk by. And He will forgive you. And God is Forgiving, Compassionate. Certainly the People of the Book may know that they have no power over anything of the grace of God and the grace of God is in the hand of God. He gives it to whomever He wills. And God is Possessor of the Sublime Grace.

Quran 57:28-29 (Laleh Bakhtiar translation)

### **Truth**

Rosebud, what did you do all night? With folded hands, I was praying to heaven to open my heart.

Gayan (Tanas 30)

One should take oneself to task, instead of putting one's fault on another. A tender-hearted sinner is better than a saint hardened by piety. The way to overcome error is first to admit one's fault, and next to refrain from repeating it.

Gayān (Boulaś 35-37)

Love that manifests as tolerance, as forgiveness, that is the love which heals the wounds of the heart.

Gayān (Boulaś 102)