

**Universal Worship Readings**  
**“Dedication”**  
**December 8, 2024**

**Hinduism**

Hunger is the acutest of all ailments. There is no doubt that it perishes on the application of the medicinal ointment that is food.

All embodied beings die when scorched by the fire of hunger. That is why it is glorified that there is great merit in the charitable gift of food.

The giver of food is the giver of life. The giver of life is the giver of all. Hence one attains the benefit of gifting everything by means of the charitable gift of food.

*Shiva Purana 11:22, 24-5 (trans. J. L. Shastri)*

**Buddhism**

And now as long as space endures,  
as long as there are beings to be found,  
may I continue likewise to remain  
to drive away the sorrows of the world.

*Way of the Bodhisattva 10:55, Shantideva*

**Zoroastrianism**

In truth, when singing Thy praises, I shall attune my soul to Vohu Mana [the Good Mind] and be aware of the blessings which flow from holy deeds undertaken for Mazda Ahura’s sake.

*Yasna 28:4 (trans. F.A. Bode)*

## **Taoism**

The sage does not hoard. Having bestowed all he has on others, he has yet more; having given all he has to others, he is richer still.

*Tao Te Ching 81 (trans. D.C. Lau)*

## **Indigenous**

We have come on a good road  
of loving one another,  
as sticking by one another.  
At this time, we will disperse.  
So keep the good work  
and love one another.  
That is the road that we came from.  
The road of life.  
Nothing but good,  
and have strong willpower  
to do all this.  
And all this, it would be so.

*Slow Buffalo, Lakota Chief*

## **Judaism**

There is holiness, when we strive to be true to the best we know.  
There is holiness, when we are kind to someone who cannot possibly be of service to us.  
There is holiness, when we promote family harmony.  
There is holiness, when we forget what divides us and remember what unites us.  
There is holiness, when we truly love honestly and unselfishly.

There is holiness, when we remember the lonely and bring cheer into a dark corner.

*Kedushah Prayer*

## **Christianity**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I  
may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

## **Islam**

“Die before you die, generous ones,  
even as I died before death  
and brought this reminder from Beyond.”  
Become the resurrection of the spirit,  
so you may experience the resurrection.  
This becoming is necessary for seeing and knowing  
the real nature of anything.  
Until you become it, you will not know it completely.

Whether it be light or darkness;  
if you become Reason, you will know Reason perfectly;  
if you become Love, you will know Love's flaming wick.

*Mathnawi VI 754-758, Jalaluddin Rumi (trans. Kabir & Camille Helminski)*

## **Truth**

The whole creation is purposed for something greater than goodness or even spirituality, and that is fruitfulness. Goodness and spirituality are the means, not the goal. If there is any goal, it is fruitfulness... Fruitfulness has three aspects. The first aspect is when man benefits from his own life. The next aspect is when man benefits from the life outside himself. And the third aspect is when man is a benefit to himself and to the life outside, and the life outside is a benefit to him.

*Volume XIII – 8, Hazrat Inayat Khan*