

Universal Worship Readings
“Sanctuary of Inclusion”
January 12, 2025

HINDUISM

How can this wonder-filled tantrika, who always comes back to their own fundamental nature as the source of all manifestation, be subject to transmigration?

Actor and action are united, but when action is dissolved by abandoning the fruits of the act, the very dynamic that is tied to the ego exhausts itself, and the tantrika who is absorbed in this profound contemplation discovers the divine tremor liberated from its ties to the ego. The profound nature of action is thus revealed, and the one who has interiorized the movement of desire no longer knows dissolution. They cannot cease to exist because they have returned to the profound source.

-The Spandakarika 11, 14-16 (trans. Daniel Odier, adapted)

BUDDHISM

The body and mind, in their slightest movements,
Are forever found at the place of awakening.
Our behavior itself is the awakening:
There is no other Buddha than the heart.
All phenomena are nothing but the heart.
Dwell in this state of consciousness,
And all the knots of passion will untie themselves naturally.
In a grain of dust
All the worlds can be found,
And all the universes are contained in the tip of one of your hairs.
There is no obstruction.
Do not evoke the Buddha,
Do not grasp at the mind,
No mental strategies,
Nor reflections,
Nor meditative practice,
Even less, distraction.
Abandon yourself to the flow of things,
Without restraining your thoughts!
Everything is pure!
The natural and immaculate clarity of the mind emerges!

-Tao-Sin, Ch'an master (trans. Claire)

ZOROASTRIANISM

Answer me aright that which I ask Thee, O Ahura. How shall I maintain in purity that which is my living faith which Thou, the Lord of Holy Wisdom, shalt teach me concerning the Heavenly Kingdom? Only one such as Thou art, O Mazda, will long to dwell in Thy Abode with Xshathra the righteous, with Asha, and with Vohu Mana, the Good Mind.

-Yasna 44:9 (trans. Bode, adapted)

TAOISM

In their every movement one of great virtue
Follows the way and the way only.
As a thing the way is
Shadowy and indistinct.
Indistinct and shadowy,
Yet within it is an image;
Shadowy and indistinct,
Yet within it is a substance.
Dim and dark,
Yet within it is an essence.
This essence is quite genuine
And within it is something that can be tested.
From the present back to antiquity,
Its name never deserted it.
It serves as a means for inspecting the fathers of the multitude.
How do I know that the fathers of the multitude are like that?
By means of this.

-Taoteching 21 (trans. D.C. Lau)

INDIGENOUS

Everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence.

-Mourning Dove, Interior Salish

JUDAISM

YHWH was seen by him [Avraham] by the oaks of Mamre
as he was sitting at the entrance to his tent at the heat of the day.
He lifted up his eyes and saw:
here, three men standing over against him.
[When] he saw them, he ran to meet them
from the entrance to his tent
and bowed low to the earth
and said:
My lords,
pray if I have found favor in your eyes,
pray do not pass by your servant!
Pray let a little water be fetched, then wash your feet and recline under the tree;
let me fetch a bit of bread, that you may refresh your hearts,
then afterward you may pass on—
for you have, after all, passed your servant's way!
They said:
Do thus, as you have spoken.
Avraham hastened into his tent to Sara and said:
Make haste! Three measures of choice flour!

Knead it, make bread-cakes!
And Avraham ran to the oxen,
fetched a young ox, tender and fine, and gave it to a serving-lad,
that he might hasten to make it ready;
then he fetched cream and milk
and the young ox that he had made ready,
and placed it before them.

-Genesis 18 (trans. Everett Fox)

CHRISTIANITY

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

-Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

ISLAM

O those who believed! Enter into peacefulness collectively and follow not the steps of Satan. Truly, he is a clear enemy to you.

-Quran 2:208 (trans. Laleh Bakhtiar)

O you who have attained to faith, when you go forth [to war] in God's cause, use your discernment, and do not - out of a desire for the fleeting gains of this worldly life - say unto anyone who offers you the greeting of peace, "Thou art not a believer" for with God there are gains abundant. You, too, were once in the same condition - but God has been gracious unto you. Use, therefore, your discernment: verily, God is always aware of what you do.

-Quran 4:94 (trans. Muhammad Asad)

TRUTH

First believe in the God who is all-exclusive, and then realize the God who is all-inclusive.