

Sanctuary for the Divine
Readings for UW Service
February 9, 2025

Hindu

The gods always play where lakes are, where the sun's rays are warded off by umbrellas of lotus leaf clusters and where clear water paths are made by swans whose breasts toss the white lotus hither and thither, where swans, ducks, curlew and paddy birds are heard and animals rest nearby in the shade of Nicula trees on the river banks.

The gods always play where rivers have for their bracelets the sound of curlew and the voice of swans for their speech, water as their garment, carps for their zone, the flowering trees on their banks as earrings, the confluence of rivers as their hips, raised sand banks as breasts and plumage of swans their mantle.

The gods always play where groves are near rivers, mountains and springs, and in towns with pleasure gardens.

— *Brihat Samhita 1.60.4-8, (Varāhamihira, Hindu Astrologer & Astronomer, 505-587 CE)*

Buddhism

As the World-Honored One was walking with the congregation, he pointed to the ground with his finger and said, “This spot is good to build a sanctuary.” Indra, Emperor of the gods, took a blade of grass, stuck it in the ground and said, “The Sanctuary is built.”

The World-Honored One smiled.

— *Book of Serenity, Case 4, The World-Honored One Points to the Ground*

<https://www.mountainrecord.org/teachings/build-a-true-sanctuary/>

Zoroastrianism

Truly, Mother Earth is our sanctuary;
She gives us Renewed Life and Spiritual Strength,
both precious to the Good Mind.
And Ahura Mazda, through Divine Law,
covered Her with edible plants
at the birth of primeval life.
If you desire to hold fast to the Good Mind,
control anger and reject violence,
thus spreading Divine Law, to which the saint is a bridge,
for their followers dwell in Thy abode, O Ahura.

—*Yasna 48:6-7 (trans. M Douglas)*

Taoism

The Tao is the sanctuary of all creatures.
It is the treasure of the good and the preservation of the bad.
Good words can buy respect, good actions can raise your status,
but should those who are not good be abandoned?
Therefore, when an emperor is installed and ministers are
appointed, offering wagonloads of jade is not as good as sitting in
your seat and offering the Tao.

Why did the ancestors esteem the Tao?
Did they not say that by means of the Tao you can obtain what you
seek and avoid the consequences of your mistakes?
For this reason, the Tao is prized by all under heaven.

—*Taoteching 62 (trans. M Douglas)*

Indigenous

Keep strong your heritage, know your people, remember and learn
from the old ways, hear the dreamtime, share our stories. Be proud
of who you are. As time passes you will grow and change. Your
culture is your strength, it has existed since time began. Grow
strong in culture, it is safe, beautiful and wise and you belong

there. You are never alone on this land or water where your ancestors walked before you – they are beside you. The journey you take is yours; the footprints you leave are your path – let culture guide and protect you along the way. You are loved and you are beautiful, you are and will always be the most special and perfect creation of the dreaming that your ancestors ever created.

—*Lore Guide, Letter by Mahjah (Aboriginal Jirrbal Elder)*

<https://www.thesanctuaryinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/B2.-Our-Culture-is-Our-Sanctuary.pdf>

Judaism

Walk prudently when you go to the house of God;
and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools,
for they do not know that they do evil.

Do not be rash with your mouth,

And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.

For God *is* in heaven, and you on earth;

Therefore let your words be few.

—*Ecclesiastes 5:1-2*

Christianity

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred and you are that temple.

—*1st Corinthians 3:16-17 (Bible, New International Version)*

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy

temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

—*Ephesians 2:19-22 (Bible, New King James Version)*

Muslim

Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth. His light is like a niche in which there is a lamp, the lamp is in a crystal, the crystal is like a shining star, lit from 'the oil of' a blessed olive tree, 'located' neither to the east nor the west, whose oil would almost glow, even without being touched by fire. Light upon light! Allah guides whoever He wills to His light. And Allah sets forth parables for humanity. For Allah has 'perfect' knowledge of all things. 'That light shines' through houses 'of worship' which Allah has ordered to be raised, and where His name is mentioned. He is glorified there morning and evening.

—*Quran 24:35-36 (trans. Dr. Mustafa Khattab)*

Truth

The Human heart is a temple;
when the door is closed to others,
it is also closed to God.

—*Gayan, Boulas 154 (Hazrat Inayat Khan)*