

Universal Worship Readings
“Sanctuary for Transformation”
March 9, 2025

Hinduism

The one who loves all intensely
begins perceiving in all living beings
a part of himself.
He becomes a lover of all,
a part and parcel of the Universal Joy.
He flows with the stream of happiness,
and is enriched by each soul.

Yajur Veda

Buddhism

I have heard that on one occasion the Blessed One was staying near Sāvattthī at Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery. And on that occasion the Blessed One was instructing, urging, rousing, & encouraging the monks with Dhamma-talk concerned with unbinding. The monks — receptive, attentive, focusing their entire awareness, lending ear — listened to the Dhamma. Then, on realizing the significance of that, the Blessed One on that occasion exclaimed:
There is, monks, an unborn — unbecome — unmade — unfabricated. If there were not that unborn — unbecome — unmade — unfabricated, there would not be the case that escape from the born — become — made — fabricated would be discerned. But precisely because there is an unborn — unbecome —

unmade — unfabricated, escape from the born —
become — made — fabricated is discerned.

Nibanna Sutta

Zoroastrianism

They shall themselves progress from good to greater good who instruct us concerning the straight paths of salvation in this life of the body and the mind leading up to the Worlds of Reality in which the living God Himself abides. And so, Thy Lover shall become one like Thee, O Mazda, resplendent in Holy Wisdom.

Yasna 43:3 (trans. FA Bode, adapted)

Taoism

Once I, Zhuangzi, dreamed that I became a flying butterfly, happy with myself and doing as I pleased. I forgot that I was Zhuangzi. Suddenly I woke up and I was Zhuangzi again. I did not know whether Zhuangzi had been dreaming that he was a butterfly, or whether a butterfly had been dreaming that it was Zhuangzi. There must be a difference between the two, which is what I call “transformation of things.”

Zhuangzi

Indigenous

As I looked around, I saw that every created thing had a thread of smoke or light going from it. The voice whispered, “This cord that every created thing has is what connects it to the Creator. Without this cord it would not exist.”

As I watched I saw that all these threads, coming from everything, went to the center of the circle where the four directions were one place (the center of the cross). I saw that all these threads were tied together or joined here at this spot.

The voice spoke again, “This is the Center of the Universe. The place where all things join together and all things become one. The place where everything begins and ends. The place inside everything created.” That’s when I understood that all of creation, the seen and the unseen, was all related.

The voice spoke one last time, “Yes, now you know the Center of the Universe.”

Black Elk Speaks

Judaism

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Christianity

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:1-2

Islam

Ibn Hurayyah relates that the Prophet was overheard to remark when returning to Madinah from the Battle of Badr; “We are leaving the lesser jihad and returning to the greater jihad.” When asked what he meant he replied that the greater jihad was the battle against our own egos.

Sahih Bukhari Hadith

Truth

The reformer comes to plow the ground; the prophet comes to sow the seed; and the priest comes to reap the harvest.

Hazrat Inayat Khan