

Universal Worship Readings
“Sanctuary for Preservation”
July 13, 2025

Hindu

Many there are who do not even hear of Atman [a person’s soul]; though hearing of Him, many do not comprehend. Wonderful is the expounder and rare the hearer; rare indeed is the experience of Atman taught by an able preceptor.

~Katha Upanishad 1.2.7

Many have not even the opportunity to hear about it [one’s soul]; and many, though hearing, cannot know it, because the teacher must be wonderful; so must [they] be wonderful too unto whom the knowledge is carried. The teacher must be wonderful, so must be the taught. To understand this truth is very difficult. Learn not the truth of the Self save from one who has realized it; in all others it is mere talk.

~Swami Vivekananda

Buddhism

If you see someone wise, who can steer you away from the wrong path, follow that person as you would one who can reveal hidden treasures. Only good can come out of it. Let them admonish, or instruct, or restrain you from what is wrong. They will be loved by the good but disliked by the bad. Make friends with those who are good and true, not with those who are bad and false. To follow the Dharma revealed by the noble ones is to live in joy with a serene mind.

~Dhammapada 76-79

Zoroastrian

Hear with your ears that which is the sovereign good;
With a clear mind look upon the two sides
Between which each person must choose for themselves

Watchful beforehand that the real test may be accomplished in our favor.

Now at the beginning the twin spirits have declared their nature,
The better and the evil,
In thought and word and deed. And between the two
The wise ones choose well, not so the foolish.

~*Yasna 30:2-3*

Taoism

The ancient Masters didn't try to educate the people but kindly taught them to not-know.

When they think that they know the answers, people are difficult to guide.

When they know that they don't know, people can find their own way.

~*Tao Te Ching, 65*

Indigenous

For most traditional African cultures, an elder is one whom the village acknowledges as having reached not only a state of old age, but also a state of maturity and wisdom. Elders are repositories of tribal knowledge and life experience, essential resources for survival of the village, anchoring it firmly to the living foundation of tradition. The old and the elder are the most revered members of the village community and its greatest preservers and nurturers. It is natural that everyone should be attracted by age, to becoming old...Perhaps the respect owed to the elder derives from the perception that the elder is at this critical junction where the natural meets the supernatural and where the ancestors and the divine intersect with the humans. In indigenous African context, this is a place of great freedom and great responsibility.

~ "The Healing Wisdom of Africa," 121-122 (*Malidoma Patrice Some*)

Judaism

(The Eternal spoke to Moses...)

Speak to Aaron and to his sons: Thus shall you bless the children of Israel. Say to them: The Eternal One blesses and keeps you always. The Eternal One shines His face upon you and is gracious to you. The Eternal One lifts up His face toward you and brings you peace. Thus they shall place My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them.

~Numbers 6:22-27

(David instructs his son Solomon...)

I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.

~1 Kings 2

Christianity

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the [people] of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

~2 Timothy 3, 14-17

Muslim

Say: 'We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the Prophets from their Lord. We separate and divide not between anyone of them, and we are ones who submit to Allah.'

~Qur'an 2:136

Truth:

One who fights his nature for his ideal is a saint;

One who subjects his ideal to his realization of truth is the master...

Who can live up to his ideal is the king of life;

And who cannot live up to it is his slave.

~Talas, Hazrat Inayat Khan