

**Universal Worship Readings**  
**“Sanctuaries in Time”**  
**August 10, 2025**

**Hinduism**

*(Krishna to Arjuna)*

Whenever there is decay of righteousness, O Bharata [Arjuna], and there is exaltation of unrighteousness; then I, Myself, come forth.

For the protection of the good, for the destruction of evil-doers; For the sake of firmly establishing righteousness, I am born from age to age.

*--Bhagavad Gita 4:7*

Whenever virtue subsides and wickedness prevails, I manifest Myself. To establish virtue, to destroy evil, to save the good I come from Yuga (age) to Yuga.

*--Bhagavad Gita 4:7 (Translation by Swami Vivekananda)*

**Buddhism**

*(Buddha to the monks...)*

I am not the first Buddha who came upon Earth, nor shall I be the last. In due time, another Buddha will arise in the world - a Holy One, a supremely enlightened One, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe, an incomparable leader of men, a master of angels and mortals.

*--Buddha (First Sermon at Deer Park)*

**Zoroastrianism**

*(Zarathustra to Ahura Mazda/God...)*

When I conceived of Thee, O Mazda, as the very First and the Last, as the most Adorable One. As the Father of Good Thought, as the Creator of Truth and Right, as the Lord Judge of our actions in life, then I made a place for Thee in my very eyes.

*--Yasna, 31-4 (Translation by D. J. Irani)*

## **Taoism**

Upon hearing of the death of Chuang Tzu's wife, his good friend Hui Tzu went over to comfort him and found the sage sitting on the ground banging on an overturned pot and singing a song at the top of his lungs.

Horrified at such behavior, Hui Tzu reproved him, saying, “This woman has lived with you, borne your children, grown old with you and now she has died. It is bad enough not to be weeping at this time but to be out here banging on a pot and singing is too much!”

Chuang Tzu replied, “You are mistaken my friend, at first, I could not help but feel sad and depressed at my beloved wife's death. But then I began to reflect. In the beginning, she had no life, and having no life she had no spirit, and having no spirit she had no body. But then she was given life, she was given a spirit and then she was given a body. Now things have changed again, and she is dead. She has joined the great cycle of the seasons. Now she lies suspended between heaven and earth. Why then should I weep and moan over her? It would be as though I did not understand the process of life. Therefore, I stopped and decided to celebrate.”

-- “*A Celebration of Life*”, Chuang Tzu

## **Paganism**

“What is it that guides the course of this cycle – this circling?” He asked me. My mind went blank for a moment. What lies at the centre of this wheel? What or who is responsible for its turning? I got it: “My soul – my true identity that endures through every life!” “Exactly,” he said, placing a pat of butter in the centre of my dish of spaghetti to mark the place of my Soul.

“Now let us forget the individual,” he went on, “and look at the world. The seasons are clearly cyclical – one following the other inexorably. So, we can place them on a circle. That is the circle of the year. But the life of each day we can place on a circle too – it is born at dawn, reaches its peak at noon, and passes from dusk into

night, before being reborn again the next day.” He began circling his plate with his finger, more gingerly now, to avoid the food.

*--Former Chief Druid of the Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids;  
Philip Carr-Gome*

## **Judaism**

*(King Solomon to the Jewish people...)*

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that he laboureth?

I have seen the task which G-d hath given to the sons of men to be exercised therewith.

He hath made everything beautiful in its time; also, He hath set the world in their heart.

*--Ecclesiastes 3:1-11*

## **Christianity**

*(Paul to the Colossians...)*

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making

the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

-- *Colossians 4:2-6*

## **Islam**

*(Allah says...)*

Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the alternation of the night and the day; in the sailing of the ships through the ocean for the profit of mankind; in the rain which God sends down from the skies and the life which He gives therewith to an earth that is dead; in the beasts of all kinds that He scatters through the earth; in the change of the winds and the clouds which they trail like their slaves between the sky and the earth; (here) indeed are signs for a people that are wise.

--*Qur'an 2:164*

## **Truth**

Man appears to be most independent of the influences and yet man is most under the influence of time; not only his body and mind, but with all affairs of life. Verily the one who knows the influence of time knows the secret of life.

--*The Gathas, Hazrat Inayat Khan*