

Universal Worship Readings
“Sanctuary in Nature”
September 14, 2025

Hinduism

Earth, sky, worlds above, quarters and their halves (four cardinal directions and the four intermediate directions);

Fire, air, sun, moon, and stars;

Water, herbs, trees, space, and entity (human) are the elements.

Eye, ear, mind, tongue, and touch;

Skin, flesh, muscle, marrow, and skeleton;

and the five vital forces (respiration, elimination, circulation, swallowing, digestion) constitute the body.

The sage, contemplating these sets of five, discovered that everything is holy. [Human] can complete the inner with the outer.

~*The Taittiriya Upanishad 1:7 (Eknath Easwaran trans.)*

Buddhism

Sitting silently. Doing nothing. Spring comes. And the grass grows by itself.

~*Matsuo Basho (17th-century Japanese haiku master)*

As the flower of a lotus,

Arisen in water, blossoms,

Pure-scented and pleasing the mind,

Yet is not drenched by the water,

In the same way, born in the world,

The Buddha abides in the world;

And like the lotus by water,

He does not get drenched by the world.

~*Theragatha* 15.2 “The Blooming Lotus,” Udayin Thera*

**Verses of the Elder Monks*

Zoroastrianism

She, Armaiti (Earth), is indeed our safe refuge. She brings the soul strength and life renewed, the true qualifications of the pure mind.

Mazda Ahura (God) has clothed Her, the Mother Earth, with vegetation, and has covered Her with food for people, since the dawn of life. Such is the wisdom of Mazda and the Eternal Law of

Asha (righteousness, justice and the divine/natural law that governs the universe).

~*The Gathas, Yasna 48:6*

Baha'i

Whatever I behold I readily discover that it maketh Thee known unto me, and it remindeth me of Thy signs, and of Thy tokens, and of Thy testimonies. By Thy glory! Every time I lift up mine eyes unto Thy heaven, I call to mind Thy highness and Thy loftiness, and Thine incomparable glory and greatness; and every time I turn my gaze to Thine earth, I am made to recognize the evidences of Thy power and the tokens of Thy bounty. And when I behold the sea, I find that it speaketh to me of Thy majesty, and of the potency of Thy might, and of Thy sovereignty and Thy grandeur. And at whatever time I contemplate the mountains, I am led to discover the ensigns of Thy victory and the standards of Thine omnipotence.

~*Prayers and Meditations CLXXVI, Bahá'u'lláh*

Indigenous

Earth teach me quiet ~ as the grasses are still with new light.

Earth teach me suffering ~ as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.

Earth teach me caring ~ as mothers nurture their young.

Earth teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.

Earth teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.

Earth teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.

Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.

Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.

~*Ute prayer "Earth, Teach Me"*

Judaism

(Job in conversation with his friend Zophar...)

But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, it will teach you. The fish of the sea, they will inform you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

~Tanakh, Job 12:7-9

Christianity

(Apostle Paul to the Roman church...)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—[Thy] eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that [we] are without excuse.

~ Bible: New Testament, Romans 1:20

Islamic

Be like the sun for grace and mercy.

Be like the night to cover others' faults.

Be like running water for generosity.

Be like death for rage and anger.

Be like the Earth for modesty.

Appear as you are.

Be as you appear.

~Rumi

Everything in the universe is a pitcher brimming with wisdom and beauty.

~Rumi

Truth

To the eye of the seer every leaf of the tree is a page of the holy book that contains divine revelation, and [they are] inspired every moment of [their] life by constantly reading and understanding the holy script of nature. When [humans] write, [they] inscribe characters upon rock, leaf, paper, wood, or steel. When God writes the characters He writes are living creatures.

~Vol 1 "The Way of Illumination", Hazrat Inayat Khan