

Universal Worship Readings
“Relationship & Dependence on Mother Earth & the Universe”
August 9, 2026

Hinduism

Dearest Mother Earth – manifest to me by the glorious terrain of hills, forests and meadows that make up Thy wondrous body and draped gracefully by the raiment of Thy magnificent blue oceans; I am compelled to act in this manifest plane of existence, by the very nature of the human condition and the limitations of my body-mind-intellect complex, as I seek to awaken my consciousness and realize the true nature of reality.

Please forgive me, divine consort of Vishnu (one of 3 main Hindu gods—the preserver), for as a consequence of this compulsion, my unworthy feet are driven to tread upon Thy Sacred form.

Please know that Thou art the realm and the supporter of this psychophysical (relationship between one's internal psyche and external physical worlds) organism's spiritual evolution. Please know that I am eternally grateful to Thee. Please know that I am entirely dependent upon Thee.

~Mother Earth Hindu Temple

<https://www.motherearthtemple.org.uk/post/a-daily-prayer-to-mother-earth>

Buddhism

Dear Mother Earth, each morning when I wake up you offer me twenty-four brand new hours to cherish and enjoy your beauty. You gave birth to every miraculous form of life. Your children include the clear lake, the green pine, the pink cloud, the snowcapped mountain top, the fragrant forest, the white crane, the golden deer, the extraordinary caterpillar; and every brilliant mathematician, skilled artisan and gifted architect. You are the greatest mathematician, the most accomplished artisan and the most talented architect of all. The simple branch of cherry blossoms, the shell of a snail and the wing of a bat all bear witness to this amazing truth. My deep wish is to live in such a way that I am awake to each of your wonders and nourished by your beauty. I cherish your precious creativity and I smile to this gift of life...

Dear Mother, you have given birth to countless buddhas, saints and enlightened beings. Shakyamuni Buddha is a child of yours. Jesus Christ is the son of God, and yet he is also the son of Man, a child of the Earth, your child. Mother Mary is also a daughter of the Earth. The Prophet Mohammed is also your child. Moses is your child. So, too, are all the bodhisattvas. You are also mother to eminent thinkers and scientists who have made great discoveries, investigating and understanding not only our own solar system and Milky Way, but even the most distant galaxies. It's through these talented children that you are deepening your communication with the cosmos. Knowing that you have given birth to so many great beings, I know that you aren't mere inert matter but living spirit. It's because you're endowed with the capacity of awakening that all your children are too. Each one of us carries within ourselves the seed of awakening, the ability to live in harmony with our deepest wisdom—the wisdom of interbeing...

...I vow to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before me, to live with

awakening and compassion, and so be worthy of calling myself your child.

~Excerpts from Letters to Mother Earth, Thich Nhat Hanh

Zoroastrianism

Ye, good [people] of the community! Ye, good [people] of the religion! May my prayers be efficacious for you. May it be more and more so, according to your desires. I pray for the good of the life of all living creatures, which Ahura Mazda (God), the creator, has created.

May the evil spirit be far from doing them any harm. May your near and dear ones increase from one to one hundred-fold. I pray that the generous may be prosperous, the truthful may be blessed, the wise may be powerful, the unwise powerless.

May the faith, which worships one omniscient God, spread and continue in the wide world. May the waters be ever and ever flowing, the trees be ever and ever growing, the corn be ever and ever ripening. May the thoughts, words and actions of us all be truthful and righteous, so that, in the end, the whole [humankind] may be benefited in this world and in the other world.

~Āfrin-ī-Haft Ameshāspandān 15, 16, 17 (traditional Zoroastrian benedictory prayer commonly recited at the conclusion of religious ceremonies and gatherings, to invoke blessings, health, and universal well-being)

Taoism

Every being in the universe is an expression of the Tao.

It springs into existence, unconscious, perfect, free, takes on a physical body, lets circumstances complete it.

That is why every being spontaneously honors the Tao.

The Tao gives birth to all beings, nourishes them, maintains them, cares for them, comforts them, protects them,

takes them back to itself, creating without possessing, acting without expecting, guiding without interfering.

That is why love of the Tao is in the very nature of things.

~Tao Te Ching, 51 (Stephen Mitchell trans.)

Indigenous

Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have been always and before you no one has been. There is no other one to pray to but you. You yourself, everything that you see, everything has been made by you. The star nation all over the universe you have finished. The four quarters of the earth you have finished. Grandfather, Great Spirit, lean close to the earth that you may hear the voice I send.

You towards where the sun goes down, behold me; Thunder Beings, behold me! You where the White Giant lives in power, behold me! You where the sun shines continually, whence come the daybreak star and the day, behold me! You where the summer lives, behold me! You in the depths of the heavens, an eagle of power, behold!

And you, Mother Earth, the only Mother, you who have shown mercy to your children! Hear me, four quarters of the world—a relative I am! Give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand, that I may be like you. With your power only can I face the winds.

~Black Elk Speaks, Black Elk (Oglala Lakota Medicine Man)

Judaism

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?

Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—

while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,

when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,

when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,

when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?

Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place,

that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it?

The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment.”

~Job 38:1-14

Christianity

The whole of the natural world is like a sacred text—and that includes the creatures and our creatureliness. ‘All creatures, are in humanity as if melted down in a

crucible.’ There are two books through which God is speaking. The first is the small book; physically little, this is the book of Holy Scripture. The second is the big book, the living text of the universe, which includes the great luminaries of the heavens, the sun, moon and stars; the earth, sea and sky; the creatures of all these realms; and the multiplicity of life-forms that grow from the ground.

We need to read both books, the sacred text of scripture and the sacred text of the universe. If we read only the little book, we will miss the vastness and wildness of the utterance, everything vibrating with the sound of the divine. If we read only the big book, we are in danger of missing the intimacy of the voice, for the book of scripture calls us to faithfulness in relationship, including faithfulness to strangers, refugees, widows and the poorest among us.

~Periphyseon, John Scotus Eriugena (9th century, Irish Neoplatonist philosopher, theologian and poet)

Islam

By the Sun and it's glorious splendor;

By the Moon as it follows the Sun;

By the Day as it shows the Sun's glory;

By the Night as it conceals it;

By the Firmament and its wonderful structure;

By the Earth and its wide expanse;

By the Soul and the proportion and order given to it;

And its enlightenment as to its wrong and its right;—

Truly [they] succeed that purifies it,

And [they] fail that corrupts it!

~Qur'an 91:1-10 (Abdullah Yusuf Ali trans.)

Truth

When a glimpse of our image is caught in man, when heaven and earth are sought in man, then what is there in the world that is not man? If one only explores him, there is a lot in man. God is the answer to every question. Make God a reality, and God will make you the truth.

~The Gathas, Hazrat Inayat Khan