

Universal Worship Readings
“Understanding & Cutting Through
the Illusion of ‘Life Span’”
October 11, 2026

Hinduism

For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. The soul has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. The soul is unborn, eternal, ever existing and primeval. The soul is not slain when the body is slain.

O Pārtha, how can a person who knows that the soul is indestructible, eternal, unborn and immutable kill anyone or cause anyone to kill?

As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, the soul similarly accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.

~Bhagavad Gita 2:20-22

Buddhism

The humans inhabiting the northern continent
Have no sense of *mine* and no notion of ownership.
They use clothing from the wish-fulfilling tree—
That is the result of former generosity.

They experience neither cold nor heat,
They are free from illnesses,
And they possess perfect bodies and complexion—
That is the karmic result of former generosity.

~The Sutra on the Limits of Life 1:17-18

Zoroastrianism

(Chanted at funerals...)

Just as is the will of the lord God so too is that of the spiritual leader owing to his righteousness.

The gifts of Vohu Mana (the Good Mind/1st emanation of God) are for those who work in this world and wield in accord with the will of Ahura Mazda (God).

The kingdom of Ahura's heaven is for him who rendereth succour (nourisher) to the poor.

~Ahunavar Prayer

Taoist

Those who understand others are clever,

Those who understand themselves are wise.

Those who defeat others are strong,

Those who defeat themselves are mighty.

Those who know when they have enough are rich.

Those who are unswerving have resolve.

Those who stay where they are will endure.

Those who die without being forgotten get longevity.

~Tao Te Ching 33

Indigenous

Everything the Power of the World does is done in a circle.

The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars.

The wind, in its greatest power, whirls.

Birds make their nest in circles,

for theirs is the same religion as ours.

The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle.

The moon does the same and both are round.

Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood,

And so it is in everything where The Power moves.

~Circle Poem, Black Elk (Medicine Man, Oglala Sioux Nation)

Judaism

What do workers gain from their toil?

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

God has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

That each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.

~Ecclesiastes 9-14

Christianity

(James letter to the 7 churches...)

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit.”

Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

~James 4:13-17

Islam

For every nation is an appointed time. When their time has come, they cannot delay it by one hour, nor can they advance it.

~Surah 7:34

Life is short, but its purpose is eternal.

Make every breath a step toward Jannah (Heaven)—
for the years may be few, but the reward is endless.

~Sunan at-Tirmidhi, Hadith 3550

Truth

When a glimpse of Our (God's) image is caught in humanity, when heaven and earth are sought in humanity, then what is there in the world that is not humanity? If one only explores humanity, there is a lot in humanity.

~Gayan, Hazrat Inayat Khan