

07-Relationship With God

We offer thanks...to the messengers of the Great Spirit who dwells in the skies above, who gives all things useful to men, who is the source and ruler of health and life.

American Indigenous Religions,
Iroquois Constitution

My Creator, allow me this day to feel your presence. Let me walk the path of life today and talk to You many times. Give me faith, my Grandfather.

American Indigenous Religions,
Chuck Ross, Lakota

Even as the radiance of the sun sheds light in all regions, so does that glorious Lord, single and adored rule over all His creation... He is the One, the only God, who rules over the whole universe.

Hinduism, *Ramayana*,
Vana-Gamana-Adesa, section 7

Behold the universe in the glory of God; and all that lives and moves on earth.

Hinduism, *Isha Upanishad* 1: 1

Know ye that HaShem He is G-d; it is He that hath made us, and we our His, His people, and the flock of His pasture.

Judaism, *Tehilim (Psalms)* 100: 3

Just as God fills the whole world, so the soul fills the body.

Just as God sees, but is not seen, so the soul sees, but is not itself seen.

Just as God feeds the whole world, so the soul feeds the whole body.

Just as God is pure, so the soul is pure.

Just as God dwells in the innermost precincts [of the Temple], so also the soul dwells in the innermost part of the body.

Judaism, *Talmud, Berakot* 10a

Every being has the Buddha Nature. This is the self. Such a self is, since the very beginning, under cover of innumerable illusions. That is why a man cannot see it.

O good man! There was a poor woman who had gold hidden somewhere in her house, but no one knew where it was. But there was a stranger who, by expediency, speaks to the poor woman, "I shall employ you to weed the lawn." The woman answered, "I cannot do it now, but if you show my son where the gold is hidden, I will work for you." The man says, "I know the way; I will show it to your son." The woman replies, "No one in my house, big or small, knows where the gold is hidden. How can you know?"

Buddhism, *Mahaparinirvana Sutra* 214:
Parable of the Hidden Treasure

The man then digs out the hidden gold and shows it to the woman. She is glad, and begins to respect him.

O good man! The same is the case with a man's Buddha Nature. No one can see it. It is like the gold which the poor woman possessed and yet could not locate. I now let people see the Buddha Nature which they possess, but which was hidden by illusions.

The Tathagata shows all beings the storehouse of enlightenment, which is the cask of true gold--their Buddha Nature.

Buddhism, *Mahaparinirvana Sutra* 215:
Parable of the Hidden Treasure

This do I ask, O Lord, reveal unto me the truth!

Zoroastrianism, *Zvesta, Yasna* 44: 3

By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

Christianity, *Hebrews* 11: 3

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things...

Christianity, *Acts* 17: 24-25

God is the Light of the heavens and the earth,
The parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche, and within it a Lamp;
the Lamp enclosed in Glass:
The Glass as it were a brilliant star:
Lit from a blessed Tree, an olive neither of the East nor of the West, whose
oil is well-nigh luminous, through fire scarce touched it.
Light upon Light! God guides whom he will to his Light;
God sets forth parables for men, and God knows all things.

Islam, *Qur'án* 2: 35

I have breathed into man of My spirit.

Islam, *Qur'án* 15: 29

Fire and paradise both bow down and prostrate themselves before God.
That which is worthy of His Essence is to worship Him for His sake, without
fear of fire, or hope of paradise.

Bahá'i, The Báb,
Selections from the Báb, p. 78

It is from the bounty of God that man is selected for the highest degree;
and the differences which exist between men in regard to spiritual progress
and heavenly perfections are also due to the choice of the Compassionate
One. For faith, which is life eternal, is the sign of bounty, and not the result
of justice. The flame of the fire of love, in this world of earth and water,
comes through the power of attraction and not by effort and striving.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá
Some Answered Questions, p. 130