

## 11-Developing Human Potential

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Indigenous, Chief Seattle, Duwamish

The threefold austerity [of body, speech, and mind] practiced with faith by men of balanced mind, without any expectation of reward, is said to be pure.

Hinduism, Bhagavad Gita 17: 17

[W]e are set to be what our desire is. As our desire is, so is our will. As our will is, so are our acts. As we act, so we become. We live in accordance with our driving desire.

Hinduism, *The Upanishads*

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him, and bless His name. For HaShem is good; His mercy endureth for ever; and His faithfulness unto all generations.

Judaism, *Tehilim* (Psalms) 100: 4-5

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come? My help cometh from HaShem, who made heaven and earth.

Judaism, *Tehilim* (Psalms) 121: 1-2

As a smith removes the impurities from silver, so let the wise remove the impurities from oneself one by one, little by little, again and again.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 239

In dwelling, live close to the ground.

In thinking, keep to the simple.

In conflict, be fair and generous.

In governing, don't try to control.

In work, do what you enjoy.

In family life, be completely present.

Taoism, *Tao Te Ching*, Chapter 8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Christianity, *Philippians* 4: 8

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Christianity, *Revelation* 3: 20

We indeed created man; and We know what his soul whispers within him, and We are nearer to him than the jugular vein.

Islam, *Qur'án* 50: 16

And We have sent you to men as a Messenger; God suffices for a witness. Whosoever obeys the Messenger, thereby obeys God; and whosoever turns his back-- We have not sent you to be a watcher over them.

Islam, *Qur'án* 4: 79-80

Man has two powers; and his development, two aspects. One power is connected with the material world, and by it he is capable of material advancement. The other power is spiritual, and through its development his inner, potential nature is awakened. These powers are like two wings. Both must be developed, for flight is impossible with one wing.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 60

[E]very man hath been, and will continue to be, able of himself to appreciate the Beauty of God, the Glorified. Had he not been endowed with such a capacity, how could he be called to account for his failure?

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh: *Gleanings*, p. 143