

20-Courtesy

Like the grasses showing tender faces to each other, thus should we do,
for this was the wish of the Grandfathers of the World.

Black Elk, Oglala Sioux

He that is covetous, he that is fierce, he that is harsh of speech, he that is garrulous, he that is given to nursing anger, he that is boastful, — these six of wicked disposition, on obtaining wealth, cannot treat others with courtesy.

Hinduism, Vyāsa, *The Mahabharata* 5, 45: 1

Protect my company, protect its courteous members, courteous God! Only through thee, O much-invoked, may I be ever rich in kine.

Hinduism, *Atharva Veda*, 19: 55.6

For better it is that thy children should seek to thee, than that thou shouldst stand to their courtesy.

Judaism, *Ecclesiasticus* 33: 21

A man of counsel will be considerate; but a strange and proud man is not daunted with fear, even when of himself he hath done without counsel.

Judaism, *Ecclesiasticus* 32: 18

Courtesy is the balm of women; courtesy is the best ornament; beauty without courtesy is like a grove without flowers.

But of what use is courtesy by itself? let it be assisted by the heart's feelings; surely, when worldly objects so hard to attain are in thy grasp, thou wilt not despise them.

Buddhism, Ashvaghosha, *Buddhacarita*, IV:70-71

The Buddha said, "There was a person who, upon hearing that I observe the Way and practice great humane kindness, intentionally came to berate me. I was silent and did not reply. When he finished abusing me, I asked, 'If you are courteous to people and they do not accept your courtesy, the courtesy returns to you, does it not?'"

Buddhism. *Sutra in Forty-two Sections*, 11.10

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Christianity, *1 Corinthians* 15:33

When you are greeted with a salute, greet with a better one than it, or return it; indeed Allah takes account of all things.

Islam, Muhammad, *Qur'án* 4: 86

O people of God! I exhort you to courtesy. Courtesy is, in the primary station, the Lord of all virtues. Blessed is he who is illumined with the light of courtesy, and is adorned with the mantle of uprightness! He who is endowed with courtesy is endowed with a great station.

O people of God! I admonish you to observe courtesy, for above all else it is the prince of virtues. Well is it with him who is illumined with the light of courtesy and is attired with the vesture of uprightness.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 27, 88

We, verily, have chosen courtesy, and made it the true mark of such as are nigh unto Him. Courtesy is, in truth, a raiment which fitteth all men, whether young or old. Well is it with him that adorneth his temple therewith, and woe unto him who is deprived of this great bounty.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 20