

## 21-Enthusiasm & Zeal

The poor with gifts and gentle ruth,  
His teachers with his docile will,  
The foemen with his archer skill.  
Truth, purity, religious zeal,  
The hand to give, the heart to feel.  
The love that ne'er betrays a friend,  
The rectitude that naught can bend,  
Knowledge, and meek obedience grace  
My Ráma pride of Raghu's race.

Hinduism, Valmiki, *The Rámáyan of Válmiki* 2.12.2

When to their task they come with zeal, may they obtain the Giver's grace,  
And satisfy his wish who thirsts.  
So may he find what erst was lost, so may be speed the pious man, And  
lengthen his remaining life.

Hinduism, *Rig Veda*, Book 8 68: 5-6

My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy  
words.

Judaism, *Psalms* 119: 139

For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of  
mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

Judaism, *Isaiah* 37: 32

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon  
the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it  
with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of  
the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Judaism, *Isaiah* 9: 7

If anything is to be done, let one do it vigorously.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 313

Through zeal knowledge is gotten, through lack of zeal knowledge is lost;  
let a man who knows this double path of gain and loss thus place himself  
that knowledge may grow.

Buddhism, *The Dhammapada* 20: 282

But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

Christianity, *Galatians* 4: 18

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Christianity, *Romans* 10: 2

It is these who hasten in every good work, and these who are foremost in them. On no soul do We place a burden greater than it can bear: before Us is a record which clearly shows the truth: they will never be wronged.

Islam, *Qur'án* 23: 61-62

[Q]ualities of the spirit are the basic and divine foundation, and adorn the true essence of man; and knowledge is the cause of human progress. The beloved of God must attach great importance to this matter, and carry it forward with enthusiasm and zeal.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 137

As regards religious zeal and true piety, their touchstone and proof are firmness and steadfastness in noble qualities, virtues, and perfections, which are the greatest blessings of the human race; but not interference with the belief of this one or that one, demolition of edifices, and cutting off of the human race.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*A Traveler's Narrative*, p. 90