

25-Honor & Integrity

Honor the sacred. Honor the Earth, our Mother. Honor the Elders. Honor all with whom we share the Earth: -Four-leggeds, two-leggeds, winged ones, Swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock people. Walk in balance and beauty."

Native American Elder

He who does not fulfil his duty is not respected by honest men. It is how he acts that reveals the nobility or baseness of a man and distinguishes the honest or the dishonest person; otherwise the ignoble would resemble the noble, and he who is devoid of honor would resemble a man of integrity...

Hinduism, *Valmiki Ramayana, Ayodhya Kanda* 109

He that walketh in his integrity as a just man, happy are his children after him.

Judaism, *Mishlei (Proverbs)* 20: 7

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Judaism, *Mishlei (Proverbs)* 28: 6

Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honour goeth humility.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 18: 12

Not to associate with the foolish, but to associate with the wise; and to honor those who are worthy of honor — this is the greatest blessing.

Buddhism, *Sutra Collection, M, Part 1*, 14.5

By what virtue, by what conduct, and performing what works, will a man be perfectly established (in the commandments) and obtain the highest good?

Let him honour old people, not be envious, let him know the (right) time for seeing his teachers, let him know the (right) moment for listening to their religious discourses, let him assiduously hearken to their well-spoken (words).

Buddhism, *The Sutta Nipata*, 323.324

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Christianity, *Timothy I* 5: 17-18

The most honorable among you in the sight of God is the one who is most God-conscious.

Islam, Muhammad, *Qur'án* 49: 13

The real bond of integrity is religious in character, for religion indicates the oneness of the world of humanity. Religion serves the world of morality. Religion purifies the hearts. Religion impels men to achieve praiseworthy deeds. Religion becomes the cause of love in human hearts, for religion is a divine foundation, the foundation ever conducive to life. The teachings of God are the source of illumination to the people of the world. Religion is ever constructive, not destructive.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,
Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 344

Instruments and means of human destruction have enormously multiplied in this era of material civilization. But if material civilization shall become organized in conjunction with divine civilization, if the man of moral integrity and intellectual acumen shall unite for human betterment and uplift with the man of spiritual capacity, the happiness and progress of the human race will be assured.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,
Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 102