

35-Responsible & Trustworthy

If a person cuts down, with an axe, a tree in forest, it is the person that incurs the sin and not the axe by any means. Or, if it be said that, the axe being only the material cause, the consequence of the act (of cutting) should attach to the animate agent (and not to the inanimate tool), then the sin may be said to belong to the person that has made the axe. This, however, can scarcely be true. If this be not reasonable, O son of Kunti, that one man should incur the consequence of an act done by another, then, guided by this, thou shouldst throw all responsibility upon the Supreme Being.

Hinduism, Vyāsa, *The Mahabharata*, 12, 32.4

My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.
LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!
Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.

Judaism, *Tehilim (Psalms)* 144: 2-4

All the nations are as nothing before Him; they are accounted by Him as things of nought, and vanity.

To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?...

Know ye not? hear ye not? Hath it not been told you from the beginning?
Have ye not understood the foundations of the earth?

It is He that sitteth above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in; That bringeth princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the earth as a thing of nought.

Judaism, *Yisheyah (Isaiah)* 40: 17-22

Just as rust from iron eats into it though born from itself, so the wrong actions of the transgressor lead one to the wrong path.

Buddhism, *The Dhammapada* 240

If one speaks or acts with an impure thought, suffering follows one, like the wheel of the cart follows the foot of the ox.

Buddhism, *The Dhammapada* 1

...be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

Christianity, *I Corinthians* 14: 40

Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity. It will have [the consequence of] what [good] it has gained, and it will bear [the consequence of] what [evil] it has earned. "Our Lord, do not impose blame upon us if we have forgotten or erred. Our Lord, and lay not upon us a burden like that which You laid upon those before us. Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear. And pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy upon us. You are our protector, so give us victory over the disbelieving people.

Islam, Muhammad, *Qur'án* 2: 286

Beware that this world is not made for you to live forever, you will have to change it for the hereafter. God, glory be to Him, has not created you without a purpose and has not left you without duties, obligations, and responsibilities.

Islam, Nahjul Balagha *Sermon* 67

Our Father will not hold us responsible for the rejection of dogmas which we are unable either to believe or comprehend, for He is ever infinitely just to His children.

Bahá'í, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 26

Adorn your heads with the garlands of trustworthiness and fidelity, your hearts with the attire of the fear of God, your tongues with absolute truthfulness, your bodies with the vesture of courtesy. These are in truth seemly adornings unto the temple of man, if ye be of them that reflect.

Bahá'í, Bahá'u'lláh,
The Kitáb-i-Áqdas, K 120