

### 38-Truthfulness and Honesty

It does not require many words to speak the truth.

Indigenous, Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

Truth is victorious, never untruth.

Truth is the way; truth is the goal of life,  
Reached by sages who are free from self-will.

Hinduism, *Mundaka Upanishad* 3.1: 6

Truth is said to be the one unequalled means of purification of the soul.  
Truth is the ladder by which man ascends to heaven, as a ferry plies from  
one bank of a river to another.

Hinduism, *Narada Dharma Sutra* 1: 210

I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.  
I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.  
I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.  
Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the  
end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with  
my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Judaism, David, *Tehilim (Psalms)*, 119: 30-35

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and  
understanding.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 23: 23

Whoever has virtue and insight, who is just, truthful, and does one's own  
work, the world will love.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 155

The gift of truth surpasses all gifts; the sweetness of the truth surpasses all  
sweetness; joy in the truth surpasses all pleasures; the destruction of  
craving overcomes all sorrows.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 259

If a country is governed with tolerance, the people are comfortable and honest. If a country is governed with repression, the people are depressed and crafty.

Taoism, Lao Tsu, *Tao Te Ching*, Ch 58

This do I ask, O Lord, reveal unto me the truth!

Zoroastrianism, *Zvesta, Yasna* 44: 3

Therefore, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Christianity, *Ephesians* 4: 25

Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities

Christianity, *Luke* 16: 10

To you We sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety: so judge between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging from the Truth that has come to you. To each among you we have prescribed a law and an open way. If Allah had so willed, He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He has given you: so strive as in a race in all virtues. The goal of you all is to Allah. it is He that will show you the truth of the matters in which you dispute...

Islam, Muhammad, *Qur'án* 5:48

[AND on Judgment Day] God will say: 'Today, their truthfulness shall benefit all who have been true to their word: theirs shall be gardens through which running waters flow, therein to abide beyond the count of time; well-pleased is God with them, and well-pleased are they with Him: this is the triumph supreme.'

Islam, Muhammad, *Qur'án* 5: 119

Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues. Without truthfulness progress and success, in all of the worlds of God, are impossible for any soul. When this holy attribute is established in man, all the divine qualities will also be acquired.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 459

Say: Honesty, virtue, wisdom and a saintly character redound to the exaltation of man, while dishonesty, imposture, ignorance and hypocrisy lead to his abasement. By My life! Man's distinction lieth not in ornaments or wealth, but rather in virtuous behaviour and true understanding.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,  
*Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 57