

42-Justice & Equity

If you can imagine the one family continuously occupying the same land for 40,000 years or more, using it not just to sustain life but as a place of reverence and worship, where every tree, rock and waterhole had significance, you will get some understanding of the importance of land to indigenous people.

Australian Indigenous
(Torres Strait Islander),
Tania Major

We shouldn't have to fight for something that should be our number one right.

American Indigenous (Navajo),
Quannah ChasingHorse

I resolutely believe that respect for diversity is a fundamental pillar in the eradication of racism, xenophobia and intolerance. There is no excuse for evading the responsibility of finding the most suitable path toward the elimination of any expression of discrimination against indigenous peoples.

American Indigenous, K'iche' (Guatemalan),
Rigoberta Menchu Tum

It is the immemorial rule that virtuous actions are those that are founded on justice, and it is also ordained by holy men that all iniquitous conduct is sin. Those who are not swayed by anger, pride, haughtiness and envy, and those who are quiet and straight-forward, are men of virtuous conduct.

Hinduism, Vyāsa,
The Mahabharata 3, 206.3

Whatever conduct is consistent with equity is consistent with the scriptures.

Hinduism, Vyāsa,
The Mahabharata 12, 269.7

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered for ever.

Judaism,
Tehilim (Psalms) 112: 5-6

To know wisdom and instruction; to comprehend the words of understanding;

To receive the discipline of wisdom, justice, and right, and equity;

Judaism,
Misheli (Proverbs) 1: 2-6

Let justice well up as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Judaism,
Amos 5: 23-24

A man is not just if he carries a matter by violence; no, he who distinguishes both right and wrong, who is learned and leads others, not by violence, but by law and equity, and who is guarded by the law and intelligent, he is called just.

Buddhism,
The Dhammapada, 256

He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

Christianity,
Luke 3: 11

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Christianity,
I John 3: 17

O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be against rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts of your hearts, lest ye swerve, and if ye distort justice or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well- acquainted with all that ye do.

Islam,
Qur'an 4:135

O Son of Spirit! The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbour.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
Hidden Words, Arabic #2

Tread ye the path of justice and equity in all things....
Be ye the embodiments of justice and fairness amidst all creation.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
The Kitáb-i-Áqdas, K 60, K187

Equity is the most fundamental among human virtues. The evaluation of all things must needs depend upon it....

Whoso cleaveth to justice, can, under no circumstances, transgress the limits of moderation.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
Gleanings, p. 203, 342