

## 55-Family

My dear sisters the women, you have had a hard life to live in this world, yet without you this world would not be what it is...By your hands the family moves.

American Indigenous Religions,  
Sioux Tradition of the Sacred Pipe

Women are sacred. If you make your wife suffer, you will die in a short time. Our grandmother, Earth, is a woman, and in abusing your wife you are abusing her.

American Indigenous Religions,  
Winnebago Tradition

Let son be loyal to father, and of one mind with his mother; let wife speak to husband words that are honey-sweet and gentle.

Let not a brother hate a brother, nor a sister hate a sister, unanimous, united in aims, speak you words with friendliness.

Hinduism, *Atharva Veda* 3: 30

Where the female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are not unhappy ever prospers.

The houses on which female relations, not being duly honoured, pronounce a curse, perish completely, as if destroyed by magic.

Hence men who seek (their own) welfare, should always honour women on holidays and festivals with (gifts of) ornaments, clothes, and (dainty) food.

In that family, where the husband is pleased with his wife and the wife with her husband, happiness will assuredly be lasting.

Hinduism, *Laws of Manu*, 57-60

A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)*: 10: 1

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 17: 6

Just as with her own life a mother shields from hurt her own, her only, child, let all embracing thoughts for all that live be thine—on all-embracing love

for all the universe in all its heights and depths and breadth, unstinted love, unmarred by hate within, not rousing enmity.

Buddhism, *Sutta Nipata* 149-150

Supporting one's father and mother, cherishing wife and children and a peaceful occupation; this is the greatest blessing.

Buddhism, *Sutta Nipata* 262

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

Christianity, *Hebrews* 13: 4

If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Christianity, *Timothy I* 5: 8

And We have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), "Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: to Me is (thy final) Goal.

Islam, *Qur'án* 31: 14

Pay homage to God... and be good to your parents and relatives, the orphans and the needy and the neighbors who are your relatives, and the neighbors who are strangers, and the friend by your side, the traveller and your servants and subordinates.

Islam, *Qur'án* 4: 36

As the child, according to its natural disposition, commits thousands of faults,

The father instructs and slights, but again hugs him to his bosom.

Sikhism, *Adi Granth, Sorath*, M.5

All the virtues must be taught the family. The integrity of the family bond must be constantly considered, and the rights of the individual members must not be transgressed.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 168

Say, O My people! Show honour to your parents and pay homage to them.  
This will cause blessings to descend upon you from the clouds of the  
bounty of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great.

Bahá'í, Bahá'u'lláh,  
*Compilation of Compilations, Vol I (Family Life), p. 386*