

56-Women & Men Relationships

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

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

Hinduism, Laws of Manu 3: 57

A virtuous wife who, after the death of her husband, constantly remains chaste even though she have no son, will reach heaven just as do men living a life of renunciation....

Hinduism, Laws of Manu 5: 160

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe. Let her affection fill you at all times with delight, be infatuated always with her love.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 5: 18-19

A woman of valour who can find? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, and he hath no lack of gain. She doeth him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 31: 10-12

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life which he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

Judaism, *Ecclesiastes* 9: 9

All things have their backs to the female and stand facing the male. When male and female combine, all things achieve harmony.

Taoism, *Tao Te Ching*, Chapter 42

The establishment of the male principle in equal measure with the female principle is the natural order of things. They should never exist in a mutually exclusive relationship. They should not be an emphasis on one at the

expense of the other, for both are indispensable. ... will the establishment of the true self be a fact of reality for both men and women.

Buddhism, Masatoshi Ueki, *Gender Equality in Buddhism*, p. 191

[L]et each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Christianity, *Ephesians* 5: 33

Wife, how do you know whether you will save your husband? Husband, how do you know whether you will save your wife?

Only, let every one lead the life which the Lord has assigned to him, and in which God has called him.

Christianity, *Corinthians I* 7: 16-17

It is He Who created you from a single soul, and made the mate of like nature, in order that he might dwell with her (in love). When they are united, she bears a light burden and carries it about (unnoticed). When she grows heavy, they both pray to Allah their Lord, (saying): If Thou gives us a goodly child, we vow we shall (ever) be grateful.

Islam, *Qur'án* 7:189

To the faithful, both men and women, God promiseth gardens 'neath which the rivers flow, in which they shall abide, and goodly mansions in the gardens of Eden. But best of all will be God's good pleasure in them. This will be the great bliss.

Islam, *Qur'án*, 9:74

The world in the past has been ruled by force, and man has dominated over woman by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind. But the balance is already shifting; force is losing its dominance, and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an age less masculine and more permeated with the feminine ideals, or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,
Compilation of Compilations, Vol II (Women), p. 369

Work ye for the guidance of the women in that land, teach the young girls and the children, so that the mothers may educate their little ones from their earliest days, thoroughly train them, rear them to have a goodly character and good morals, guide them to all the virtues of humankind, prevent the development of any behaviour that would be worthy of blame...

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,

Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pp. 124-125