

## 59-Friendship & Fellowship

I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.

Lone Man (Isna-la-wica), Teton Sioux

Strong is Thy friendship. O Lord of Strength may we have no fear, we sing hymns of praise to thee again and again, O never conquered Conqueror.

Hinduism, *Rig Veda* 10.151: 4-5

When a person responds to the joys and sorrows of others as if they were his own, he has attained the highest state of spiritual union.

Hinduism, *Bhagavad Gita* 6: 32

One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality. All other activities are due to selfish desire.

Hinduism, *Mahabharata*,  
*Anusasana Parva* 113: 8

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow...

Judaism, *Keholet (Ecclesiastes)* 4: 9-10

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 27: 17

Make no friendship with a man that is given to anger; and with a wrathful man thou shalt not go; Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 22: 24

Do not have wrong-doers for friends; do not have despicable people for friends; have virtuous people for friends; have for friends the best people.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 78

While interacting with others, do not hope or pray to gain personal profit. With the hope for personal gain, the spiritual nature of the encounter is diminished.

Buddhism, *Sutra collection*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.  
And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Christianity, *Matthew 22: 37-40*

No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and  
his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in  
us, because he has given us of his own Spirit....

Christianity, *John 14: 12-13*

The faithful of both sexes are mutual friends: they enjoin what is just, and  
forbid what is evil; they observe prayer, and pay the legal impost, and they  
obey God and His Apostle. On these will God have mercy: verily, God is  
Mighty, Wise.

Islam, *Qur'án, 9: 73*

Moreover, good and evil are not to be treated as the same thing. Turn away  
evil by what is better, and lo! he between whom and thyself was enmity,  
shall be as though he were a warm friend.

Islam, *Qur'án, 41: 36*

Friend! listen to the benefits of holy company:  
Thereby is cast off impurity, vanished are millions of sins,  
And purified is the mind.

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

Now is the time to cheer and refresh the down-cast through the invigorating  
breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and  
charity.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh  
*Gleanings, p. 7*

Consort with all men, O people of Bahá, in a spirit of friendliness and  
fellowship. If ye be aware of a certain truth, if ye possess a jewel, of which  
others are deprived, share it with them in a language of utmost kindness  
and good-will. If it be accepted, if it fulfill its purpose, your object is attained.  
If anyone should refuse it, leave him unto himself, and beseech God to  
guide him.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,  
*Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, 15

Let the beloved of God gather together and associate most lovingly and spiritually and happily with one another, conducting themselves with the greatest courtesy and self-restraint.

Bahá'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá,  
*Compilation of Compilations*, Vol I (The Nineteen Day Feast), p. 425