

61-Society

I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, but rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and fellow man.

American Indigenous, Sun Bear, Chippewa

Do not seek to benefit only yourself, but think of other people also.

American Indigenous,
Yamana Eskimo Initiation

Sit in the assembly of the honest; join with those that are good and virtuous; nay, seek out a noble enemy where enmity cannot be helped and have nothing to do with the wicked and the unrighteous.

Even in bondage you should live with the virtuous, the erudite, and the truthful; but not for a kingdom should you stay with the wicked and the malicious.

Hinduism, *Garuda Purana* 112

May your counsel be common, your assembly common, common the mind, and the thoughts of these united. A common purpose do I lay before you, and worship with your common oblation.

Let your aims be common, and your hearts of one accord, and all of you be of one mind, so you may live well together.

Hinduism, *Rig Veda* 10.191: 3-4

Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Judaism, *Psalms* 112: 1-2

He that walketh in his integrity as a just man, happy are his children after him.

Judaism, *Misheli (Proverbs)* 20: 7

[I]f a man prevail against him that is alone, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Judaism, *Keholet (Ecclesiastes)* 4: 12

Let no one neglect one's own duty for the sake of another's, however great; let a person after one has discerned one's own duty, be always attentive to this duty.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 166

Blessed is the arising of the awakened; blessed is the teaching of the truth; blessed is the harmony of the community; blessed is the devotion of those who live in peace.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 194

He brings together those who are divided, he encourages those who are friendly; he is a peacemaker, a lover of peace, impassioned for peace, a speaker of words that make for peace.

Buddhism, *Digha Nikaya (Tevigga Sutta)*13: 75

When a country obtains great power, it becomes like the sea: all streams run downward into it.

The more powerful it grows, the greater the need for humility.

Humility means trusting the Tao, thus never needing to be defensive.

A great nation is like a great man: When he makes a mistake, he realizes it.

Having realized it, he admits it. Having admitted it, he corrects it.

He considers those who point out his faults as his most benevolent teachers.

He thinks of his enemy as the shadow that he himself casts.

If a nation is centered in the Tao, if it nourishes its own people and doesn't meddle in the affairs of others, it will be a light to all nations in the world.

Lao-Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, Chap61

Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Christianity, *John* 6: 28-29

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Christianity, Christianity, *Luke 6: 37-38*

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Christianity, *Acts 20: 35*

And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah’s favour on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren; and ye were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth Allah make His Signs clear to you: That ye may be guided.

Islam, *Qur’án 3: 103*

O ye who believe! stand out firmly for Allah, as witnesses to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety: and fear Allah. For Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do.

Islam, *Qur’án 5: 8*

All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: To act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth.

Bahá’i, Bahá’u’lláh,
Gleanings, p. 215

Promote ye the development of the cities of God and His countries, and glorify Him therein in the joyous accents of His well-favoured ones... We have assigned to every end a means for its accomplishment; avail yourselves thereof, and place your trust and confidence in God, the Omniscient, the All-Wise.

Bahá’i, Bahá’u’lláh,
The Kitáb-i-Áqdas, K 77

Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the well-being and tranquillity of all mankind. This span of earth is but one homeland and one

habitation. It behoveth you to abandon vainglory which causeth alienation and to set your hearts on whatever will ensure harmony.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,
Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 67-68