

64-Governance

In a society where all are related, simple decisions require the approval of nearly everyone in that society. It is society as a whole, not merely a part of it, that must survive. This is the indigenous understanding. It is the understanding in a global sense. We are all indigenous people on this planet, and we have to reorganize to get along.

American Indigenous, Rebecca Adamson (Cherokee)

None who is not a great man with cleansed soul and possessed of accomplishments and friends can bear a heavy burthen. Take up this great weight (of governing the Vrishnis) and bear it on thy shoulders. All oxen can bear heavy burthens on a level road. The stronger ones only among them can bear such burthens on a difficult road.

Hindu, Vyāsa, *The Mahabharata* 12, 81.2

“Arjuna said, ‘The man armed with the rod of chastisement governs all subjects and protects them. The rod of chastisement is awake when all else is sleep. For this, the wise have characterised the rod of chastisement to be Righteousness itself. The rod of chastisement protects Righteousness and Profit.

Hindu, Vyāsa, *The Mahabharata* 12, 15.2

And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Judaism, Yirmeyahu (*Jeremiah*), 30: 12

If a ruler hearkeneth to falsehood, all his servants are wicked.

Judaism, Solomon, *Proverbs (Mishlei)*, 29.12

The eye of dharma was purified in eighty thousand men, and even in all beings an ardour for the Law was made visible.

Everywhere all kinds of evil became tranquillised, and on every side an ardour for all that helps on the good Law manifested itself.

Buddhism, Ashvaghosha, *Buddhacarita*, XVI: 49-50

The thirsty world of living beings will drink the flowing stream of his Law, bursting forth with the water of wisdom, enclosed by the banks of strong

moral rules, delightfully cool with contemplation, and filled with religious vows as with ruddy geese.

Buddhism. Ashvaghosha, *Buddhacarita*, I: 76

And Jesus answering said unto them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marvelled at him.

Christianity, *Mark* 12: 17

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Christianity, *Ephesians* 5: 22-24

The Prophet said: Islam is founded on five pillars — (1) There is no deity but God and Muhammad is His servant and messenger, and to bear witness to this formula, (2) to keep up prayers, (3) to pay Zakat, (4) to fast and (5) to make pilgrimage.

Islam, Imam Ghazzali, *Revival of Religious Learnings Vol-I*, 5.1

And I have come to attest the law which was before me; and to allow you part of that which had been forbidden you; and I come to you with a sign from your Lord: Fear God, then, and obey me; of a truth God is my Lord, and your Lord: Therefore worship Him. This is a right way.

Islam, *The Qur'an*, 3.46

[T]his Administrative Order is fundamentally different from anything that any Prophet has previously established, inasmuch as Bahá'u'lláh has Himself revealed its principles, established its institutions, appointed the person to interpret His Word and conferred the necessary authority on the body designed to supplement and apply His legislative ordinances. Therein lies the secret of its strength, its fundamental distinction, and the guarantee against disintegration and schism.

Bahá'i, Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, 6.96

This New World Order, whose promise is enshrined in the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, whose fundamental principles have been enunciated in the writings of the Center of His Covenant, involves no less than the complete unification of the entire human race. This unification should conform to such principles as would directly harmonize with the spirit that animates,

and the laws that govern the operation of, the institutions that already constitute the structural basis of the Administrative Order of His Faith.

Bahá'í, Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, 7.4

These Spiritual Assemblies are aided by the Spirit of God. Their defender is 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Over them He spreadeth His wings. What bounty is there greater than this? These Spiritual Assemblies are shining lamps and heavenly gardens, from which the fragrances of holiness are diffused over all regions, and the lights of knowledge are shed abroad over all created things. From them the spirit of life streameth in every direction. They, indeed, are the potent sources of the progress of man, at all times and under all conditions.

Bahá'í, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, 38.5