

“He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want.” (Judaism)

“...those who are temperate in eating and sleeping, work and recreation, will come to the end of sorrow through meditation.” (Hinduism)

“...(L)eave intoxicants and gambling aside... that you may prosper.” (Islam)

“Whatsoever passeth beyond the limits of moderation will cease to exert a beneficial influence.” (Bahá’í)

Generosity-Hospitality

“Noble men find joy in generosity, and this gives them joy in higher worlds.” (Buddhism)

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” (Christianity)

“Thou shalt open wide thy hand to thy brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land.” (Judaism)

“Giving simply because it is right to give, without thought of return, at a proper time, in proper circumstances, and to a worthy person, is (pure) giving.” (Hinduism)

“Feed the hungry, and give the greeting of peace to those you know, and to those you do not know.” (Islam)

“Be generous in prosperity... a treasure to the poor, an admonisher of the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy...” (Bahá’í)

Creativity-Beauty

“A good all-round education, appreciation of the arts, a highly trained discipline, and pleasant speech; this is the highest blessing.” (Buddhism)

“Having gifts that differ according the grace given to us, let us use them...” (Christianity)

“...(T)he Lord has filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs... And he has inspired him to teach...” (Judaism)

“What the outstanding person does, others will try to do. The standards such people create will be followed by the whole world.” (Hinduism)

“God is beautiful, and loves beauty.” (Islam)

“Arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation.” (Bahá’í)

Earthcare-Stewardship

“Good sons and daughters who accept the true Law, build the great earth... for the sake of all living beings.” (Buddhism)

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” (Christianity)

“... (H)ave dominion (and be good stewards over)... every living thing that moves upon the earth.” (Judaism)

“(Know) Me as the friend of all creatures, the Lord of the universe...” (Hinduism)

“Have you observed the water which you drink? Is it you who shed it from the rain cloud, or are We the Shedder?... Is it you who grows the tree... or are We the Grower?... We have made (these things as) a memorial of Our handiwork...” (Islam)

“Every part of the universe is connected with every other part by ties that are very powerful and admit of no imbalance, nor any slackening whatever.” (Bahá’í)

Victoria Multifaith Society (VMS)

Excerpted from:

[Founders of Faith: The Parallel Lives of God’s Messengers](#), by Harold Rosen



Universal Spiritual Principles

“All the scriptures lead to Me; I am their Author and their Wisdom.” (Hinduism)

“The Founders of the world’s great religions taught very similar virtues, which They renewed and embodied.”

“I began to hear the same voice behind all of the scriptures, as if the same story were being revealed, and as if a common body of sequential guidance were being offered to humanity as a whole.”

- Harold Rosen, [“Founders of Faith”](#)

Gratitude-Reverence

“O Lord, how manifold art Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all...” (Judaism)

“Make every act an offering to Me; regard Me as your only protector. (Hinduism)

“The worthy person is grateful and mindful of benefits done to him.” (Buddhism)

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances...” (Christianity)

“The earth He has appointed for His creatures, wherein are fruit and sheathed palm trees, husked grain and scented herb. Which is it, of the favors of your Lord, that you deny?” (Islam)

“Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! Every time I attempt to make mention of Thee I am hindered by the sublimity of Thy station and the overpowering greatness of Thy might.” (Bahá’í)

Self-discipline-Obedience

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit is better than he who takes a city.” (Judaism)

“To offer soothing words, to speak truly, kindly, helpfully, and to study the scriptures: these are the disciplines of speech.” (Hinduism)

“Those who make channels for water control the waters; makers of arrows make arrows straight; carpenters control their lumber; and the holy control their soul.” (Buddhism)

“Discipline, to be sure, is never pleasant; at times it seems painful, but afterwards, those who have been trained by it reap the harvest of a peaceful and upright life.” (Christianity)

“... (I)f any one obeys his own impulse to Good, be sure that God is He Who recognizes and knows.” (Islam)

“...Man should know his own self and recognize that which leadeth unto loftiness or lowliness glory or abasement, wealth or poverty.” (Bahá’í)

Detachment-Patience

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...” (Judaism)

“...(Make) yourself alike in pain and pleasure, profit and loss, victory and defeat...” (Hinduism)

“Perform work in this world... without selfish attachments, and be alike in success and defeat.” (Hinduism)

“Good men, at all times, surrender in truth all attachments. The holy spend not idle words on things of desire. When pleasure or pain comes to them, the wise feel above pleasure and pain.” (Buddhism)

“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?” (Christianity)

“God is with those who are patient and persevere.” (Islam)

“Disencumber yourselves of all attachment to this world and the vanities thereof.” (Bahá’í)

Wisdom-Discernment

“I, Wisdom, dwell in prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion... For he who finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord...” (Judaism)

“They live in wisdom who see themselves in all and all in them...” (Hinduism)

“Among the blind multitudes shines pure the light of wisdom of the student who follows the Buddha, the One Who is truly awake.” (Buddhism)

“The wisdom from above is first, pure, then peaceable, then gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.” (Christianity)

“How many a sign there is in the heavens and the earth, which most men pass by and ignore.” (Islam)

“The acquisition of knowledge is a duty. Seek knowledge from cradle to grave. Knowledge lights the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert, our society in solitude, our companion when friendless.” (Islam)

“Be thou guided by wisdom under all conditions.” (Bahá’í)

Loving-kindness-Compassion

“O let us live in joy, in love amongst those who hate! Among men who hate, let us live in love.” (Buddhism)

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you...Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate.” (Christianity)

“Love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Judaism)

“The ignorant work for their own profit... the wise work for the welfare of the world...” (Hinduism)

“Kindness is a mark of faith: whoever has not kindness has not faith. All God’s creatures are His

family, and those most beloved of God, do the most good to God’s creatures.” (Islam)

“Love ye all religions and all races with a love that is true and sincere, and show that love through deeds...” (Bahá’í)

Service-Responsibility

“The good works of a man in his life welcome him in another life, with the joy of a friend meeting a friend on his return.” (Buddhism)

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Christianity)

“...Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked to cover him...?” (Judaism)

“Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world... Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.” (Hinduism)

“...(D)o good – to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbors... strangers... the wayfarer you meet...” (Islam)

“Service to humanity is service to God.” (Bahá’í)

Respect-Tolerance

“Think not of the faults of others, of what they have done or not done. Think rather of your own sins, of the things you have done or not done.” (Buddhism)

“Judge not, that you be not judged.” (Christianity)

“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?” (Judaism)

“Those who possess this wisdom have equal regard for al. They see the same Self in a spiritual aspirant and an outcaste...” (Hinduism)

“There must be no compulsion in religion...” (Islam)

“Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.” (Bahá’í)

Justice-Righteousness

“He who for the sake of happiness does not hurt others who also want happiness, shall hereafter find happiness.” (Buddhism)

“Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them...” (Christianity)

“Thou shalt not be partial in judgment; thou shalt hear the small and the great alike...” (Judaism)

“One should not behave toward others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality.” (Hinduism)

“The rights of women are sacred. Whoever has a daughter, and does not prefer his male children to her, may God bring him into Paradise.” (Islam)

“If thine eyes be turned toward justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou chooseth for thyself.” (Bahá’í)

Peace-Unity

“(The noble one) brings together those 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)

“Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.” (Christianity)

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they study war anymore.” (Judaism)

“When they see the variety of creation rooted in that unity and growing out of it, they attain fulfillment in Brahman.” (Hinduism)

“God has ordained for you the same religion which He commended unto Noah, and... Abraham and Moses and Jesus, saying: Establish the one religion, and be not divided therein.” (Islam)

“It is incumbent upon all peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness.” (Bahá’í)

“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.” (Bahá’í)

Trustworthiness-Honesty

“A wise man calmly considers what is right and what is wrong, and faces different opinions with truth... This man is guarded by truth, and is a guardian of truth.” (Buddhism)

“Speak the truth in love.” (Christianity)

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches...” (Judaism)

“Be self-controlled, sincere, truthful, loving, and full of desire to serve.” (Hinduism)

“Give full measure when you measure, and weigh with a balance that is straight...” (Islam)

“Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues.” (Bahá’í)

Moderation-Balance

“Self-control as taught in the Rules, moderation in food, the solitude of one’s room and one’s bed, and the practice of the highest consciousness: this is the teaching of the Buddhas...” (Buddhism)

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have...” (Christianity)