

## Moral Character

Out of the Indian approach to life there came a great freedom, an intense and absorbing respect for life, enriching faith in a Supreme Power, and principles of truth, honesty, generosity, equity, and brotherhood as a guide to mundane relations.

American Indigenous Religions, Black Elk (Oglala Sioux)

[O]ur traditional values are based on *order, ...decency, ...wisdom, ... and health...*

These endow us with the knowledge that our life is our religion; this land is our church; and the universe is our relative.

American Indigenous Religions, Elizabeth A. Wells (Mescalero Apache)

The most vital duty, in this day, is to purify your characters, to correct your manners, and improve your conduct.

Bahá'í Faith, 'Abdu'l-Bahá: SWAB, 10

The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice...

Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh: HW, Arabic #2

By oneself is wrong done; by oneself one suffers; by oneself is wrong left undone; by oneself is one purified. Purity and impurity come from oneself; no one can purify another.

Buddhism, Dhammapada 119

As a smith removes the impurities from silver, so let the wise remove the impurities from oneself one by one, little by little, again and again.

Buddhism, Dhammapada 239

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Christianity, Timothy I 4: 12 NKJV

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other...

Christianity, Colossians 3: 12-13 RSV

Confucius said: "The Superior Man cares about virtue; the inferior man cares about material things. The Superior Man seeks discipline; the inferior man seeks favors."

Confucianism, Analects 4: 11

Single is each being born; single it dies; single it enjoys the reward of its virtue; single it suffers the punishment of its sin.

Hinduism, Laws of Manu 4: 240

Truth is said to be the one unequalled means of purification of the soul. Truth is the ladder by which man ascends to heaven, as a ferry plies from one bank of a river to another.

Hinduism, Narada Dharma Sutra 1: 210

On no soul do We place a burden greater than it can bear: before Us is a record which clearly shows the truth: they will never be wronged.

Islam, Qur'án 23: 62

Conform yourselves to the character of God.

Islam, Hadith of Abu Nuaym

Subdue pride by modesty, overcome hypocrisy by simplicity, and dissolve greed by contentment.

Jainism, Samanasuttam 136

He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy.

Judaism, Mishlei (Proverbs) 28: 13 JPS

One should be known as true who in his heart  
bears truth—

His impurity of falsehood cast off, his person  
should be washed clean.

Sikhism, Adi Granth, Asa-ki-Var, M.1, p.  
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Realization of Truth is higher than all else;  
Higher still is truthful living.

Sikhism, Adi Granth, Sri Ashtpadi, M.1,  
p. 62

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