



*Practice
Compassion*

Selections from *World Scripture:*
A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts
with commentary

The image features a warm, golden-brown background with a subtle, textured pattern. In the top-left and top-right corners, there are decorative floral motifs. Each motif consists of several overlapping, light-colored leaves or petals arranged in a circular, fan-like pattern, resembling a stylized flower or a cluster of leaves. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

Passages from scripture discussing God's attributes of goodness and love often describe God as good, loving, beautiful, truthful, compassionate, and faithful in personal terms.



Buddhism

☞ The Great Compassionate Heart is the essence of Buddhahood.

Gandavyuha Sutra



Judaism



- ❧ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ❧ The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Psalm 145:8-9



Christianity

☞ God is love.

1 John 4:8



Islam

❧ If you count God's blessing, you can never number it; surely God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate.

Qur'an 16:18



Sikhism

- ❧ One attempting to express God's creation and to contemplate it shall find it beyond counting and innumerable.
- ❧ The Bull of Dharma is born of compassion; content of mind holds creation together.

Adi Granth, Japuji 16, M.1, p. 3



Commentary

True love is grounded in divine love. Love or compassion, being the core of Ultimate Reality, is manifested by the saint who can rise above self-centered attachments and desires. As God created for the sake of His creatures, so true love is totally committed to the welfare of the beloved.

Andrew Wilson, Editor, World Scripture



Hinduism

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.

Bhagavad Gita 6.32

What sort of religion can it be without compassion?

You need to show compassion to all living beings. Compassion is the root of all religious faiths.

Basavanna, Vacana 247



Buddhism

The true thinking is compassion.

Mahapatinirvana Sutra 259

Compassion is a mind that savors only
mercy and love for all sentient beings.

Nagarjuna, Precious Garland 437



Sikhism

Make your mosque of compassion,
your prayer mat of sincerity.

Adi Granth, Var Majh, M. 1, p. 140



Jainism

Have benevolence toward all living beings, joy at the sight of the virtuous, compassion and sympathy for the afflicted, and tolerance toward the indolent and ill-behaved.

Tattvarthasutra 7.11



Judaism

The world stands upon three things:
upon the Law, upon worship, and
upon showing kindness.

Mishnah, Abot 1.2



Confucianism



☞ Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.

Confucius



Commentary

☞ I have just three things to teach:
simplicity, patience, compassion.
These three are your greatest
treasures.

Lao Tzu



Commentary

- ❧ Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.
 - ❧ For we did not weave the web of life.
 - ❧ We are merely a strand in it.
 - ❧ Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
 - ❧ Let us give thanks for the web and the circle that connects us.
 - ❧ Thanks be to god, the God of all.
- Chief Seattle, Native American leader*



Commentary

☞ The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.

Thomas Merton



Commentary

☞ A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.

Abraham J. Heschel



Commentary

- ❧ If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.
- ❧ Compassion is not religious business, it is human business, it is not luxury, it is essential for our own peace and mental stability, it is essential for human survival.

Dalai Lama



Commentary

☞ Wherever there is a human being,
there is an opportunity for a kindness.

Seneca



Commentary

☞ Those who can unconditionally love everyone, including their enemies, must command the respect of others, whether they are black, white or yellow. This would be true in the past, in the present, and on into the future.

Sun Myung Moon



Commentary

☞ People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.*

☞ If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.*

☞ If you are successful you will win some false friends and true enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

☞ If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. *Be honest and frank anyway.*

☞ What you spend years building, someday could be destroyed overnight. *Build anyway.*

☞ If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

☞ The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. *Do good anyway.*

☞ You see, in the end, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa



For further reflection



World Scripture: A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts

<http://origin.org/ucs/ws/ws.cfm>

Universal Peace Federation

<http://www.upf.org/education/interreligious-un>