

## **THE GOLDEN RULE**

### **World Scripture<sup>1</sup>**

## **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS**

One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.

### **Yoruba Proverb (Nigeria)**

### **BAHA'I FAITH<sup>2</sup>**

O son of man! If thine eyes be turned towards mercy, forsake the things that profit thee and cleave unto that which will profit mankind. And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou chooseth for thyself.

**Baha'u'llah, The third Leaf of the Most Exalted Paradise, Tablets, p. 64**

## **BUDDHISM**

Comparing oneself to others in such terms as "Just as I am so are they, just as they are so am I," he should neither kill nor cause others to kill.

### **Sutta Nipata 705**

The Ariyan disciple thus reflects, Here am I, fond of my life, not wanting to die, fond of pleasure and averse from pain. Suppose someone should rob me of my life... it would not be a thing pleasing and delightful to me. If I, in my turn, should rob of his life one fond of his life, not wanting to die, one fond of pleasure and averse from pain, it would not be a thing pleasing or delightful to him. For a state that is not pleasant or delightful to me must also be to him also; and a

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<sup>1</sup> **Bible. New Revised Standard Version:** Wilson, Andrew (Editor): *World Scripture. A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*, International Religious Foundation, 1991. Available online: <http://www.unification.net/ws>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bahai.org/>

state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?

As a result of such reflection he himself abstains from taking the life of creatures and he encourages others so to abstain, and speaks in praise of so abstaining.

**Buddhism. Samyutta Nikaya v.353**

## **JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY. TORAH/OLD TESTAMENT**

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

**Leviticus 19,18**

## **CHRISTIANITY. NEW TESTAMENT**

Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

**Matthew 7,12**

Treat others just as you want to be treated.

**Luke 6,31**

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

**Matthew 22,36-40**

## **JUDAISM. TALMUD**

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah; all the rest of it is commentary; go and learn.

**Talmud, Shabbat 31a**

## **CONFUCIANISM**

Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence.

### **Mencius VII.A.4**

Tsekung asked, "Is there one word that can serve as a principle of conduct for life?" Confucius replied, "It is the word shu –reciprocity: Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you."

### **Analects 15.23**

## **HINDUISM**

One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality. All other activities are due to selfish desire.

### **Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva 113.8**

## **ISLAM**

Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

### **Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi 13**

## **JAINISM**

One who you think should be hit is none else but you. One who you think should be governed is none else but you. One who you think should be tortured is none else but you. One who you think should be enslaved is none else but you. One who you think should be killed is none else but you. A sage is ingenuous and leads his life after comprehending the parity of the killed and the killer. Therefore, neither does he cause violence to others nor does he make others do so.

## **Acarangasutra 5.101-2**

### **SIKHISM**

Precious like jewels are the minds of all. To hurt them is not at all good. If thou desirest thy Beloved, then hurt thou not anyone's heart."

**Guru Aranj Devji 259, Guru Granth Sahib**

### **ZOROASTRISM**

That nature alone is good which refrains from doing another whatsoever is not good for itself

**Dadisten-I-dinik, 94,5**

Whatever is disagreeable to yourself do not do unto others

**Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29**