

The Golden Rule: The Universal Tool

One idea uniting many beliefs
Among various guiding spiritual chiefs,
Is remembrance of that special tool,
To always practice the Golden Rule.



Christianity: “In everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

Authority: Jesus, The Bible, Matthew 7:12



Judaism: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary.”

Authority: Hillel, Talmud, Shabbat 31a



Islam: “Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.”

Authority: Prophet Muhammad, Hadith



Jainism: “One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.”

Authority: Parsvanatha, Mahavint, Sutrkritanga



Baha'i: “Lay not on any soul a load you would not wish to be laid on you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.”

Authority: Siyyid Ali-Muhammad/Baha'u'llah “The Bob,” The Gleanings



Hinduism: “This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.”

Authority: Vyasa, The Great Hindu Epic, Mahabharata 5:1517



Buddhism: “Hurt not others in ways you yourself would find hurtful.”

Authority: Siddhartha Gautama, Udana-Varga 5.18



Confucianism: “One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...loving kindness. Do not do to others what you would not want done to yourself.”

Authority: K’ung Fu Tzu (Confucius), Analects 15:23



Taoism: “Regard your neighbor’s gain as your own gain, and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.”

Authority: Lao Tzo, T’ai Shang Kan Ying P’ien, 213-218



Sikhism: “I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.”

Authority: Guru Granth, Sahib, pg. 1299



Unitarianism: “We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent of all existence of which we are a part.”

Authority: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Unitarian principal



Native Spirituality: “We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive.”

Authority: Chief Dan George, Spoken speech in British Columbia



Zoroastrianism: “Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to your self.”

Authority: Prophet Zarathushtra, Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29



Wiccan: “And it harm no one, do what thou wilt.”

Authority: Gerald Gardner, Wiccan Rede



Shinto: “The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form.”

Authority: Yamato dynasty



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

Authority: Oduduwa, Itan

Timeline of these 16 World Religions with Map of Country of Origin

Native Spirituality (9200 BC) North America

Zoroastrianism (6000 BC) Greater Persia (Iran)

Hinduism (4000-2000 BC) (Indus Valley) India and Nepal

Judaism (2,085 BC) Jerusalem, Israel

Yoruba (900 BC) (Nigeria, Africa)

Buddhism (560 BC) (India and Nepal)

Jainism (599 BC) (India)

Taoism (550 BC.) (China)

Confucianism (551 BC) (China)

Shinto (500 BC) (Japan)

Christianity (30 AD) (Israel and Rome)

Islam Mohammed (610 AD) (Mecca, Saudi Arabia)

Tibetan Buddhism-Dalai Lama (1650 AD) (Tibet)

Baha'i (1844 AD) (Iran)

Unitarian (18th century AD) (Europe and America)

Wicca (1920s AD) (England)