

# Love of others



Klimt. The kiss



# Hinduism

- advaitic view : all selves are ultimately identical
- vishishtadvaitic view : all selves are part of the one divine

‘The person who benefits those of all orders, who is always devoted to the good of all beings, who does not feel aversion for anybody ... succeeds in ascending to heaven’(The Mahabharata).

The Bhagavad Gita is part of the 6th book of this epic poem from 5th - 2nd centuries BC



## Love of others : Hinduism

- This requires damyata (self-control)  
datta (giving)  
dayadhvam (compassion)

‘Do injury to no one and you will live fearlessly and with a pure heart.’(The Mahabharata)

‘I believe in the absolute oneness of God and therefore also of humanity. What though we have many bodies? We have but one soul’(Mahatma Gandhi).



‘Truly it is this Ariyan eightfold way:

right view (ditthi),

right aim (sankappa),

right speech (vaca),

right action (kammanta),

right living (ajiva),

right effort (vayama),

right mindfulness (sati),

and right concentration (samâdhi).

Love of others :  
Buddhism (Gautama  
6th century BC)

This is that middle path which gives vision,

which gives knowledge, which causes calm,

special knowledge, enlightenment’(Samyutta Nikâya, V,421).



## Love of others : Buddhism

‘All creatures are in pain, all suffer from bad and hindering karma ... All that mass of pain and evil karma I take in my own body ... I take upon myself the burden of sorrow ... Assuredly I must bear the burden of all beings ... for I have resolved to save them all. I must set them all free. I must save the whole world ... for all beings are caught in the net of craving, encompassed by ignorance, held by the desire for existence ... I work to establish the kingdom of perfect wisdom for all beings.’

(Siksâsamuccaya, 278-9)



## Love of others : Buddhism

- four cardinal virtues:
  - friendliness (metta)
  - compassion (karunâ)
  - sympathetic joy (muditâ)
  - serenity (samatha)



## Love of others : Buddhism

‘May all be happy and safe. May all beings gain inner joy – all living beings, seen or unseen, dwelling far or near, born or yet unborn – May all beings gain inner joy. May no being deceive another, nor in any way scorn another, nor in anger or ill-will desire another's sorrow. As a mother cares for her child all her days, so towards all things living a person's mind should be all-embracing. Friendliness for the whole world, all-embracing, you should raise in your mind, above, below and across, unhindered, free from hate and ill-will’(Sutta Nipata, 143-144).



## Judaism

‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.



# Judaism

‘You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.’(Leviticus 19:9-18).



## Love of others : Judaism

‘You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord’(Leviticus 19:9-18).



## Love of others : Islam (Muhammad 6th century AD)

‘Render to your kin their due rights, as also to those in want and to the wayfarer ... Come not nigh to the orphan's property except to improve it until he attains the age of full strength ... Give full measure when you measure and weigh with a scale that is true. Do not walk on the earth with insolence’(Sura 17 of the Qur’an).



## Love of others : Islam

‘Righteousness consists in believing in God ... and in spending your substance out of love for God for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves. It is righteousness to be steadfast in prayer and practice regular charity, to fulfil the contracts which you have made’(Qur’an 2:177).



## Love of others : Islam

‘It is one form of faith that one loves one's brother as one loves oneself’(Sayings of Muhammad).

‘The main part of wisdom after religion is love for others and doing good to everyone, pious or sinner.’  
(Al-Hadis of Miskat-ul-Masibih, I:248).

When asked to curse polytheists, Muhammad replied:

‘Truly, I have not been sent to curse. I have been raised up as mercy.’(Al-Hadis of Miskat-ul-Masibih, I:247)



## Love of others : Christianity

‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another’(John 13:34).

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us’(Romans 5:5).

‘Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him’(1John 4:7-12).



## Love of others : Christianity

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us'(1John 4:7-12).

‘The One who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct ... love one another deeply from the heart’(1Peter 1:15, 22).



## Love of others : Christianity

‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’

(Luke 10:27 = Leviticus 19:18).

‘Do not do to your neighbour what you yourself hate. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary. God and learn it’(Rabbi Hillel).

‘The whole law is summed up in a single commandment: You shall love your neighbour as yourself’(Galatians 5:14).

‘The commandments are summed up in this word: Love your neighbour as yourself’(Romans 13:9).



## Love of others : Christianity

‘You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture: You shall love your neighbour as yourself’(James 2:8).

‘Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love’(1John 4:8).

‘Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen’(1John 4:20).





What a wonderful world

Louis Armstrong





I see trees of green,  
red roses too,  
I see them bloom,  
for me and you.  
And I think to myself,  
What a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue,  
And clouds of white,  
the bright blessed day,  
the dark sacred night.  
And I think to myself,  
What a wonderful world.





The colours of the rainbow,  
so pretty in the sky,  
are also on the faces,  
of people going by.  
I see friends shaking hands,  
saying, "How do you do?"  
They're really saying,  
"I love you".

I hear babies cry,  
I watch them grow.  
They'll learn much more,  
than I'll ever know.  
And I think to myself,  
What a wonderful world.





What a wonderful world