

Hindu/Krishna/Bhagavad Gita, 2000 B.C.

Lord Krishna: Chapter 5, Verse 18.

“The truly learned, with the eyes of divine knowledge, **see with equal vision** a Brahmin, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog eater.”

Lord Krishna: Chapter 6 Verse 32:“

He who sees equality everywhere, **who sees other’s happiness and sorrow as his own**, is considered the highness yogi.”

Lord Krishna: Chapter 9, Verse 32

“**All** those who take refuge in Me, whatever their birth, race, sex or caste, even those born in sinful wombs, **can attain the supreme destination.**”

“But you say that Yudhisthira feeds 500 people daily. This clearly means that his kingdom has 500 poor people. What kind of ruler allows poverty to exist in his kingdom?” The story Yudhisthira’s lesson in true humility through a visit to King Mahabali's prosperous kingdom, Yudhisthira realizes that true **greatness lies in eliminating poverty, not merely offering charity.**

Jewish/ Moses/Old testament/ Torah/ Tanakh,1330 B.C.

Proverbs 19:17) "Whoever is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD"

Deuteronomy 15:11 “You shall **open wide your hand** to your brother, to the needy and to the poor”.

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever **oppresses a poor man insults his Maker**, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.”

Proverbs 21:13 “Whoever **closes his ear to the cry of the poor** will himself call out and not be answered.’

Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, **defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

Buddhist/ Buddha/"Tripitaka," which is a Sanskrit means "Three Baskets 560 B.C.

Chapter 6:32: "He is a perfect yogi who, by comparison to his own self, sees the true equality of all beings, in both their happiness and their distress, O Arjuna!". This verse encourages empathy by feeling the pain and pleasure of others as one's own.

***Chapter 17: 20** Sattvic Charity (Mode of Goodness): This is the ideal form of giving.

“That gift which is made to one who can make no return, and with the feeling that it is one’s duty to give, and which is given at the right place and time and to a worthy person—such as gift is held to be of the nature of sativa” This type of charity is performed as a selfless duty, without expectation of reward, and is considered purifying,

Christian/Christ/ Bible: New Testament, 1 A.D.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "**Be kind and compassionate** to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has forgiven you”

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, **as you did it to one of the least of these** my brothers, you did it to me.’

Mark 12:41-44 He (Jesus) sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but **she out of her poverty has put in everything she had**, all she had to live on.’

Luke 12:16-21 “Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with **those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.**’ “

Islam/Mohammed/Quran, 622 A.D.

273 [Charity is] for the poor who have been restricted for the cause of Allah, unable to move about in the land. An ignorant [person] would think them self-sufficient because of their restraint, but you will know them by their [**characteristic**] **sign**. They do not ask people persistently [or at all]. And **whatever you spend of good – indeed, Allah is Knowing of it.**

Surah Al-Ma’arij, 70:24-25“And in their wealth there is **a recognized right**. For the needy who ask and the one who is deprived.”

Surah 2:177 Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [**true**] **righteousness is** [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and **gives wealth, in spite of love for it...** Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous.

Sarah 2:271 If you disclose your charitable expenditures, they are good; but if you **conceal them and give them to the poor**, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds . And Allah, with what you do, is Acquainted.

Baha’i /The Bab & Baha’u’llah/ World Order of Baha’u’llah & many other volumes, 1844/1853 A.D.

Baha’u’llah, The Hidden Words p. 39

“O Children of Dust! Tell the rich of the **midnight sighing** of the poor, lest heedlessness lead them into the path of destruction, and deprive them of the Tree of Wealth. To give and to **be generous** are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues.”

Baha’u’llah, The Hidden Words p. 41

O ye rich ones on earth! The poor in your midst are My trust; **guard ye My trust**, and be not intent only on your own ease. –

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh, p. 314-315

O ye rich ones of the earth! Flee not from the face of the poor that lieth in the dust, nay rather **befriend him and suffer him to recount the tale of the woes** with which God's inscrutable Decree hath caused him to be afflicted. By the righteousness of God! Whilst ye consort with him, the Concourse on high will be looking upon you, will be interceding for you, will be extolling your names and glorifying your action.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 33

God has not said that there are mansions prepared for us if we pass our time associating with the rich, but He has said there are many mansions prepared for the **servants of the poor**, for the poor are very dear to God. The mercies and bounties of God are with them.

‘Abdu’l-Baha: Divine Philosophy pg. 78

“Work done in the spirit of service is the highest form of worship.”