

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

JASON N MANSFIELD

Regis University

3333

Regis Boulevard Denver

Colorado 80221-1099

mansf843@regis.edu

<http://www.regis.edu/>

RC 471

Instructed by Professor Henri Tshibambe

<http://tinyurl.com/3htorkr>

September 27, 2011

FOUR THINGS THAT BRING MUCH INWARD PEACE

THOMAS A KEMPIS

My child, now will I teach thee the way of peace and true liberty.

O Lord, I beseech thee, do as thou sayest, for this is delightful for me to hear.

Be desirous, my child, to work for the welfare of another rather than seek thine own will.

Choose always to have less rather than more.

Seek always the lowest place, and to be inferior to everyone.

Wish always, and pray, that the will of God may be wholly fulfilled in thee.

Behold, such a man entereth within the borders of peace and rest.

O Lord, this short discourse of thine containeth within itself much perfection. It is little to be spoken, but full of meaning, and abundant in fruit. . . . Thou who canst do all things, and ever lovest the profiting of my soul, increase in me thy grace, that I may be able to fulfill thy words, and to work out mine own salvation.

Ekknath, 2009, pg. 199

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

JASON N MANSFIELD

CONTENTS

1	Judaism	4	
1.1	Abraham Isaac Kook	4	
1.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	4	
1.1.2	Similarities	4	
1.1.3	Differences	4	
2	Christianity	4	
2.1	Thomas A. Kempis	4	
2.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	4	
2.1.2	Similarities	4	
2.1.3	Differences	4	
3	Hinduism	4	
3.1	Kabir	4	
3.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	4	
3.1.2	Similarities	5	
3.1.3	Differences	5	
4	Buddhism	5	
4.1	Sutta Nipata	5	
4.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	5	
4.1.2	Similarities	5	
4.1.3	Differences	5	
5	Surfism	5	
5.1	Jalāl ad-Dīn Muammad Rūmī	5	
5.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	5	
5.1.2	Similarities	5	
5.1.3	Differences	5	
6	Native American Shamanism	6	
6.1	Great Spirit	6	
6.1.1	Spiritual perspectives	6	
6.1.2	Similarities	6	
6.1.3	Differences	6	
	References	7	

1 JUDAISM

1.1 *Abraham Isaac Kook*

1.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's poem, "Radiant Is the Wold Soul" Eknath, 2009, pg. 39 talks about the radiance and majesty of the world through God.

1.1.2 *Similarities*

The Rabbi speaks of the warmth or radiance of God. This is similar to the description given by the American Indians for the Great Spirit Eknath, 2009, pg. 186.

1.1.3 *Differences*

Unlike the theory of Nirvana defined in the Sutta Nipata Eknath, 2009, pg. 200 the Rabbi points out tranquility may be found while still flesh and here on earth.

2 CHRISTIANITY

2.1 *Thomas A. Kempis*

2.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

Thomas A. Kempis talks about living a meek lifestyle not weighed down but needs for importance and looking out for others welfare in his poem, "Four Things That Bring Much Inward Peace" Eknath, 2009, pg. 199.

2.1.2 *Similarities*

Similar to Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's poem, "Radiant Is the Wold Soul" Eknath, 2009, pg. 39 Thomas A. Kempis describes works that truly provide meaning to the follower.

2.1.3 *Differences*

Unlike Jalāl ad-Dīn Muammad Rūmī's Eknath, 2009, pg. 246-247 vision of leaving the human body and become a powerful ocean Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook focuses on seeking meekness.

3 HINDUISM

3.1 *Kabir*

3.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

Kabir describes how God is within us all but reveals himself in Saints in "The Temple of the Lord" Eknath, 2009, pg. 40-41.

3.1.2 *Similarities*

Thomas A. Kempis Eknath, 2009, pg. 199 describes seeking meekness so its seems similar as a Saint might also seek meekness.

3.1.3 *Differences*

Unlike the Native American's belief's God is shown through men as opposed to nature Eknath, 2009, pg. 186.

4 BUDDHISM

4.1 *Sutta Nipata*

4.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

The Sutta Nipata clearly describes a place of enjoyment and rest for those in troubled times or passed on Eknath, 2009, pg. 200:

For those struggling in midstream, in great fear of the flood, of growing old and of dying for all those I say, an island exists where there is no place for impediments, no place for clinging: the island of no going beyond. I call it nirvana, the complete destruction of old age and dying.

4.1.2 *Similarities*

Nirvana seems similar to what Christians may think of when envisioning heaven.

4.1.3 *Differences*

The American Indians believed that a form of great pleasure can be found in nature while here on earth Eknath, 2009, pg. 186. The American Indian's belief does not indicate a need for the release from the human body for this pleasurable state.

5 SURFISM

5.1 *Jalāl ad-Dīn Muammad Rūmī*

5.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

Jalāl ad-Dīn Muammad Rūmī delivers a powerful poem describing reincarnation. "A Garden beyond Paradise" discusses the various changes souls go through Eknath, 2009, pg. 246-247.

5.1.2 *Similarities*

This authors outlook shows similarities with The Sutta Nipata Eknath, 2009, pg. 200: as it appears souls enter a nirvana like status once leaving its fleshly boundaries.

5.1.3 *Differences*

This is Unlike Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's descriptive poem Eknath, 2009, pg. 39 which attributes a pleasurable lifestyle to closeness with God.

6 NATIVE AMERICAN SHAMANISM

6.1 *Great Spirit*

6.1.1 *Spiritual perspectives*

The Great Spirit or Great Maker is defined differently amongst American Indian tribes. All appear to believe in some entity which is critical to this existence in some form or another. The Native American Poem, "Great Life-Giving Spirit" is quoted by Author Eknath, 2009, pg. 186:

Great Spirit of creation, send me the warm and soothing
winds from the South.

6.1.2 *Similarities*

Most Tribes describe this Maker as a personal being who is essential to the existence of this reality. This is similar to the concept of YAHWEH in Christianity. Similar also is the fact that Native Indians look at their God as a teacher.

6.1.3 *Differences*

You might be able to state that this is different than Kabir's Eknath, 2009, pg. 40-41 interpretation of God being shown through Saints as opposed to Nature as the Native Americans purpose. Its possible however that Kabir would agree God is also shown through Nature.

REFERENCES

Easwaran Eknath. *God makes the rivers to flow*. Nilgiri Press, Tomales, Calif, 2009. ISBN 9781586380380.