

HOLY POWER

Before we go any further, I feel we need to take a moment to discuss the “*elephant in the room*”... which is my use of what I call “*God Talk*”. Because, in the interest of building bridges, I sure don’t wanna push away or turn off any of you who check the boxes for nonreligious, humanist or atheist... a group you could categorize as “*secular*”. Now interestingly, the word “*secular*” SPECIFICALLY means “*separation of church and state*”... but the word can also, more GENERALLY, just mean “*nonreligious*”. Which got me to wondering how many other religious words also have ~ *basically parallel* ~ secular meanings. So, I did a little research...

And I found that **most of the words we strongly associate with religion do indeed also have a looser, but still very similar, secular definition**. And I’ve compiled the definitions of a bunch of these words into a document you can check out for yourself ~ either by going to [\[internet link to be added later\]](#) or by picking up a printed copy at our *Born Again* booth in our *Circle of Heroes* Activist Tent. As a matter of fact, in addition to this little dictionary, you will also find ~ in the same document ~ a bunch more notes and links related to ALL the song’n’drums we’re sharing with you today... should you be so interested!

Anyway, I also learned that, if you remove from these definitions the idea of “*God*” as some supreme spiritual being who rules the world... what you’re left with are words and ideas regarding what we humans believe are most important and most valuable to us, especially relating to what we deem is either right or wrong behavior... Words and ideas that elicit our most passionate feelings and inspire our most steadfast commitments to what we consider to be our highest principles... Words and ideas that express our deepest desires to live meaningful and purposeful lives... Words and ideas that call us to the uncommon lives we all crave!

Now, listen... I was raised a Christian, but ~ long story short ~ it ultimately turned out NOT to be a big enough tent for me... I simply don’t believe that ANY one religion holds a monopoly on truth and righteousness... and no matter which religion you think is the one and only right one, I also reject the idea that all the “*OTHER*” religions are wrong or evil.

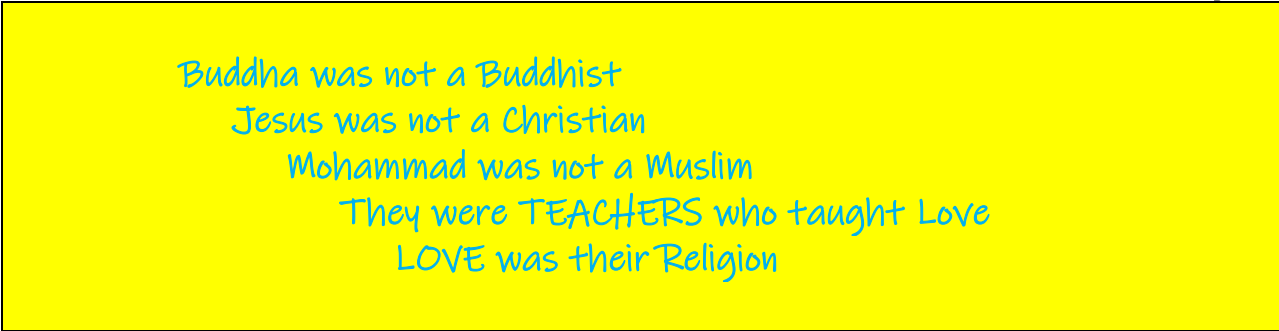
But I totally buy into THESE two moral principles, that I first learned as a kid in church so long ago...

One... Love the Lord your God with all your might... which means, TO ME, profoundly respecting, admiring and appreciating ~ as well as giving fierce and unwavering commitment to ~ all that “God” is... which includes (*among many other things*) (1) ultimate truth and ultimate reality, (2) pure and unconditional love, and (3) everything that’s good and right in the world, all put into action in...

Two... **“THE GOLDEN RULE”**... Treat others as you would have them treat you... which means, treating all creation ~ and that means all people and all other living beings, as well as Mother Earth herself and the entire universe ~ treating all creation with profound and genuine respect, kindness, empathy, fairness and compassion. Which comes from deeply understanding ~ or “GROKING” (*look it up*) ~ that ALL creation is PRECIOUS and SACRED. Yup, that’s right... I’m no saint, but I AM precious and sacred. And I’m willing to bet that you’re no saint, but I KNOW that you are ~ nonetheless ~ precious and sacred!

Years ago, a good friend who knows me pretty well gave me a poster (*for Christmas, no less!*) that is music to my heart...

[1st Singer]



Buddha was not a Buddhist
Jesus was not a Christian
Mohammad was not a Muslim
They were TEACHERS who taught Love
LOVE was their Religion

Wow, that still rocks my soul! And for me, I don’t care whether you believe God to be a “*Heavenly Father (or Mother)*”... or whether you believe God to be consciousness, expressed through all of creation... or whether you believe in God at all. **ALL that matters to me is what each of us does with** (*what I consider to be*) **our SACRED time and our SACRED energy while we are here on earth in human form!** And lemme make it crystal clear... I believe that ALL our time and energy is SACRED.

So, as far as I’m concerned, feel free to...
Throw out the idea of God as some Sugar Daddy in the Sky
Throw out the manmade myths and rituals
Throw out all the manmade rules and regulations of all the religions
If that’s what works for you...

But please... **“DON’T THROW OUT THE BABY WITH THE BATHWATER”** just because I use the loaded language of *“God Talk”*! Remember, now... these RELIGIOUS words have matching SECULAR meanings. So, take what I say either way ~ or both ~ because I mean both, simultaneously.

Now, I realize that many of you have been horribly hurt by people, maybe even loved ones, who have weaponized their religion against you... and yes, we absolutely must acknowledge that there are far too many professed believers who tragically use their religion to choose winners and losers, and who personally judge who will *“go to heaven”* and who will *“burn in hell”* ...

But I happen to believe that there are FAR MORE people ~ from all the religious traditions, AND from the spiritual communities, AND from the secular world ~ FAR MORE people who sincerely ~ and some even emphatically ~ believe in honoring ALL people and ALL living beings, and who truly wish to be in compassionate communion with all! Which means... there are FAR MORE people whose morality is firmly based on The Golden Rule. And bottom line...

**??? ISN’T THIS THE COMMON GROUND ON WHICH WE CAN
BUILD BEAUTIFUL BRIDGES ???**

So, if you will graciously allow my double-duty definitions, then my God Talk can work as just such a bridge between these diverse approaches (*religious, spiritual and secular*) to understanding the way our mind-boggling and awe-inspiring universe works... and how best we can work WITH our universe and WITH each other... to create the miraculous changes we wish to see ~ first in ourselves, and then ultimately throughout our whole wondrous world!

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Speaking of justice and peace, one of my biggest heroes, Martin Luther King Jr., once said... [sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, 25 December 1967]

[2nd Singer]

If we are to have peace on earth... our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.

To which I would add... developing the world perspective that King envisioned will surely require us to do what I've been talking about... which is, being **READY** and **WILLING** and **ABLE** to tear down those ugly walls that separate the religious from the spiritual from the secular. **And then, the challenging work of building beautiful bridges of UNITY will surely require all of us to surrender our egos to HUMILITY.**

Now, many people believe that humility is a horrible and ~ well, humiliating! ~ weakness... but on the contrary, I firmly believe that humility is one of our greatest **STRENGTHS**... for one of humility's greatest gifts is a **SOFT** and **OPEN HEART**... with which to listen deeply...

[3rd Singer]

You gotta LISTEN SO DEEPLY that you can feel my pain...

If you want me to hear you...
want me to feel you understand
If you want me to trust you...
want me to feel you care

You gotta LISTEN SO DEEPLY that you can feel my pain...

If you wanna move my heart
If you wanna build rapport
If you wanna move a mountain
If you wanna save a world

You gotta LISTEN SO DEEPLY...
SO DEEPLY...
SO DEEPLY...

You gotta LISTEN SO DEEPLY that you can feel my pain...

Another of humility's greatest gifts is a **CURIOUS** and **OPEN MIND**... with which to forever explore the infinite unknown...

Don't think you...
Don't think we as a species...
Know it all

Don't think we mere mortals
have figured it all out

Keep an open mind
about the myriad mysteries
that abound in our universe
beyond what we have yet discovered
and explored up until now

Leave room for the unknown...
Leave space for an infinity
of magical and mystical possibilities

Just keep an open mind... and heart...
PLEASE... Just keep an open mind and heart...
That's all

Then YES! As we're haggling over all the logistical, cultural, political and ethical dynamics surrounding all the possible solutions to the plethora of existential crises our beleaguered world is struggling with these days...

We're definitely ALL gonna need wide-open hearts and wide-open minds...

...to build ALL the bridges we will need to transcend ALL our differences...

...to form the mutually supportive communities we will require...

...to manifest the miraculous win-win-win solutions we WILL create...

...to clean up the gargantuan messes we humans have made...

Before it's too late!

But with **humility's gracious gifts** of **tender compassion** and **transcendent imagination** ~ oh, what a **HOLY POWER** we shall be!

The time has come for me to Gather Medicine
Time to close my eyes, breathe deep and pray for Power

The time has come to listen for Spirit
Time to hear God speak in the silence of this Holy Hour

The time has come for me to Gather Medicine
Time to close my eyes, breathe deep and pray for Power

I'm gonna walk out into the river, cold and clear
I'm gonna raise my arms to the sky, give up my fear
I'm gonna sing it proud, I'm gonna sing it strong
I'm gonna sing it loud, I'm gonna sing it long

Beneath the setting sun
I'm gonna sing and dance
To the beat of the drum
In the heat of a trance

I'm gonna open my heart to Good Medicine
Good Good Medicine
I'm gonna cry out for Power

I'm gonna open my heart
And cry out for Power

Shower me with Power
Holy Power

I'm gonna open my heart to Good Medicine
I'm gonna open my heart and cry out for Power

I'm gonna open my heart for Holy Power
Holy Power
Holy Power