

Letter to the Editor – B

(Reaction to the following: Gyatso, Tenzin. "Many Faiths, One Truth." The New York Times, May 24, 2010.
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/25/opinion/25gyatso.html?_r=0)

Dear Editor,

I am an eighth grade student at _____ Middle School who was moved by the Dalai Lamas' claim, that harmony and compassion will lead to a more tolerant world. As our technology continues to advance, we are more inclined to spread our conflicting opinions and views to people around the world. This is why we must understand that the five major religions all link through compassion. We need to take advantage of this rather than seeking out the differences.

In my study of India, I discovered a leader named Akbar who promoted religious and cultural tolerance. He encouraged talk between religious leaders to discuss views and philosophies. Akbar states "It cannot be wisdom to assert one faith over another the wise person makes justice his guide and learns from all religions." He implies that we not only should learn from what we already know, but we must step beyond our comfort zone and educate through other perspectives as well. No one religion owns all knowledge. Akbar contributed to the view that unity is what guides us to a more tolerant coexistence.

From the article Many Faiths, One Truth, the Dalai Lama has conversed with a wide spread of people from different religions and cultural back rounds. He found that the common thread of compassion connects all five major religions. Each religion has a different way of expressing its practice of compassion. Christianity shows it through Jesus' acts and teaching. The Dalai Lama had spoken to Merton the Monk you said, "His miracle of the loaves and fishes, his healing and his teachings are all motivated by the desire to relieve suffering". Buddhism also shows their dedication towards compassion because their entire religion is based off of giving up worldly desires, so people will no longer suffer. From Judaism who speaks through the Talmud, Islam from the Quran and Hindus in the Bhagavad Gita, they all express that compassion is a core principle in each religion. Intolerance may be as old as religion itself, but this does not mean we should follow blindly in its acts of evil. We all need to accept each other for who we are, to keep the world safe from all judgment and violence.

Cruelty and Intolerance can lead to an unstable living environment for love to grow. Obtaining harmony and unity, to express compassion is the foundation for a peaceful world. As we come more interconnected, instead of spreading opposing views we should speak of the similarities. Tolerance is what will make the world one, so we can all get along.