

Letter to the Editor – (Version 2)

(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 8th grade student who recently read the Dalai Lama’s “Many Faiths One Truth.” To respond to this I’d like to say that he was absolutely right. You can see that all five major religions of the world share a common theme of compassion. Since they all share this theme they really should try and come together and relate to each other. Even Akbar, an ancient Mughal leader thinks in this way and made huge efforts to make this happen.

In my social studies class we learned about Akbar. He was the greatest and most powerful Mughal king of all time. His main goal as king was to spread compassion and tolerance to unite the major religions and find a common ground. He once said, “It cannot be wise to assert one faith over another.” He followed through with this through his years as king and it caused his empire to flourish. He did the same as the Dalai Lama was trying to get across in his article. All religions can be united through compassion and tolerance.

The Dalai Lama wrote about how he found compassion as a common ground to all religions. He found it in Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. In Hinduism, he found examples such as Baba Amte who founded a leper colony for those who were normally shunned by society. In Islam, an example is the name of their god, which means “Compassionate and Merciful.” For Judaism, he mentions how the Talmud and the Bible both share a theme of compassion, and that you should “love your neighbor as yourself.” He also learned about Jesus’ act of compassion and selfless teachings in Christianity. All of these examples help to prove the point that all five major can come together and find a common ground. If all these religions would realize this, the world would be able to come together and the world would be much more peaceful.

This is why I agree with the Dalai Lama. You can clearly see how all major religions share the theme of compassion. It shows they should try and come together and realize this common ground.