Sayings on Nature from Different Religions

Presented by
Earth Day Network India
Introduction

Earth Day Network India is a registered trust. We aim to help Restore our Earth. Our initiatives focus on ways to regenerate the green cover, recharge aquifers, rejuvenate soil, reduce air pollution, inspire responsible consumption, minimise and manage waste. We also encourage a switch to clean and green energies and ask that climate education be mandated to develop environmental stewardship from a young age.

This eBook focuses on the reverence all religions have for nature.

Our work is inspired by the global NGO EARTHDAY.ORG™ that grew out of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, and today engages with over 50,000 organisations in some 190 countries to take the environmental movement forward.

Please Note: The translations are worded exactly as received from the learned contributors.
Buddhism

I rain down the Dharma rain, filling the whole world, and this single-flavoured Dharma is practised by each according to the individual’s power. It is like those thickets and groves, medicinal herbs and trees which, according to whether they are large or small, bit by bit, grow lush and beautiful.

Lotus Sutra
Christianity

God said, ‘I am giving you all the grain bearing plants and all the fruit trees. These trees make fruit with seeds in it. This grain and fruit will be your food.’

*Holy Bible Genesis Ch 1, Verse 29*
O Goddess Earth, the consort of Vishnu (Lord of the Universe), you are the one whose garments are the oceans and whose ornaments are the hills and mountain ranges; please forgive me as I walk on you this day.
Children of Adam, take your adornment at every place of prayer. Eat and drink, and do not waste. He does not love the wasteful.
JAINISM

तथिमं पद्मं, महावीरय देसिअं
अहिंसा निउणा हुठ्ठा, सव्वभूएसु संजमो।।9।।
*Dasvaikalik Sutra*

tthimn pdhmn, mhaavirey desian
ahinsaa niunaa hutthaa, svvbhuesu snjmo (9)

No other creatures, love for life, for they are alike.
Kill them not; save their life from fear and enmity.
מש ромנן

יאולים אלreira בהמות ותננה עוזר חסמים ונגרלת.

Job 12.7

dar cere de la fiare, de la vitezé tale, de la păsările cerului și de la cele care îți spun

But ask the beasts, and they will teach you. The birds of the sky, they will tell you.
Santhal

হামে আদিবাসি

বনওআ হামর মাঞ্চ
হামে বনবাসি
কল কুড়মি সাঁওতার মুড়া
নাগা লেপচা খাসি
এহে পাহাড়ে জাঁঘালে রহা
আদি ভারতবাসি গ
হামে আদিবাসি।

I am indigenous.

The forest is my mother; I am a forest dweller. Cole, Kurmi, Santal, Munda, Naga, Lepcha and Khasi stay in the hills and jungles. I am an original Indian. I am indigenous.

hamey adibashi, bonoa
hamar mancha, hamey
bonobashi, kol kurhmi
saontar murha, naga lepcha
khashi, eho paharey janghaley
roha, adi bharatbashi go,
hamey adibashi
Sikhism

आये पहुँच पाटी घामंडत आये मेलि भिकाप्ता दे ||3||

Guru Granth Sahib, Maaroo Solhay
Mehlaa 1

aapay pa-un paanee baisantar aapay
mayl milaa-ee hay ||3||

You yourself are the air, water and fire; You yourself unite in union.
Zoroastrianism

ithā āat yazamaide, ahurem mazdām ye gāmchā ashemchā dāt, apaschā dāt urvarāoschā vanghuhīsh, raochāoschā dāt būmīmchā vīspāchā vohū.

Yasna XXXVII.1 = Yasna V.1

We worship here, God Ahura Mazda, who has created the cattle, grain, water, the beneficent vegetation, light, the earth and all good things.
Buddhism

We, enjoying savoury earth, feeding on it, nourished by it, continued so for a long while. But since evil and immoral customs became rife among us, the savoury earth disappeared.

Aggañña-Suttanta
Christianity

‘And I am giving all the green plants to the animals. These green plants will be their food. Every animal on earth, every bird in the air, and all the little things that crawl on the earth will eat that food.’ And all these things happened.

_Holy Bible Genesis Ch 1, Verse 30_
Within the water rests nectar. In the water reside medicines. O Devas, expedite for praising the water.
Islam

وَلَا تُقْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِسْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوا هُدًى وَإِصْلَاحًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Holy Quran 7:56

wa-lā tufsidū fī l-ʾarḍī baʿ daʾ ʾislāḥihā wa-dʿūhu khawfan wa-ṭamaʿ an ʾinna raḥmata Ilāhi qarībun mina l-muḥṣinīn

Do not make mischief in the earth after it has been put right. Pray to Him with fear and hope; His mercy is near to the righteous.
jaavnti loe paanaa, tsaa aduv thaaavraa
te jaanmjaann vaa, n hne novi ghaaye (10)

All creatures desire to live, none to die, hence, to kill is to sin. A godly man does not kill.
‘...speak to the earth, it will teach you; the fish of the sea, they will inform you.’
Santhal

অহে পাহাড়ে জাঁঘালে আহাত ।
হামর ভগমান
নিতেই পাহাড়ি আ ঝারনাঞ্জ
নাহান সিনান
হামর মাদেইর আর বাঁসরিকে
হামে ভালবাসি গ
হামে আদিবাসি।

My God resides in this forest and mountains.
I bathe in mountain springs each day.
I love my madal and flute. I am indigenous.

ahey paharein, janghalein
aahat hamor bhogoman,
nitei pahariya jharnanyo
nahaan sinaan, hamor madeyer
aar bansarikey hamey
bhalobashi go, hamey adibashi
Sikhism

ਆਪੇ ਮੌਲ ਮੁਰਤ ਪੁਰਵੇ ਪੁਰਵਾ

Guru Granth Sahib, Maaroo Solhay
Mehlaa 1

aapay sas sooraa pooro poora

You yourself are the moon,
the sun, the most perfect
of the perfect.
Zoroastrianism

az āsmān nek wārēd, az zamīn nek rōyēd, mardōme weh rād ezash bahr bād.
Āfrin-ī-Rapithwin, 28

May good rain from the heavens; may good grow from the earth; may good charitable persons derive benefit from these.
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