

Karma



Why Bad Things Happen
To Good People

Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.
(New Testament - Saint Paul)



The law of Karma is, in the world of values, the counterpart of the law of cause and effect which operates in the physical world. If there were no law of cause and effect in the physical world there would be chaos, and people would not know which thing might be expected to follow which thing. In the same way, if there were no law of Karma in the world of values, there would be an utter uncertainty of results in the world of values which men cherish, and people would not know whether to expect good or bad results from their actions. In the world of physical events there is a law of conservation of energy according to which no energy is ever lost. In the world of values there is a law that once Karma comes into existence, it does not mysteriously flitter away without leading to its natural result, but persists until it bears its own fruit or is undone through counter-Karma. Good actions lead to good results, and bad actions lead to bad results.

(Meher Baba)

Like gravity,
karma is so basic we often don't even notice it.
(Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche)



Contrary to popular misconceptions, karma has nothing to do with punishment and reward. It exists as part of our holographic universe's binary or dualistic operating system only to teach us responsibility for our creations - and all things we experience are our creations.
(Sol Luckman)



The law of karma describes the way that cause and effect govern the patterns that repeat themselves throughout all life. Karma means that nothing arises by itself. Every experience is conditioned by that which precedes it. Thus our life is a series of interrelated patterns. The Buddhists say that understanding this is enough to live wisely in the world.
(Jack Kornfield)



The word Karma literally means action. It may appear that Karma is happening to us, as if some outside force is causing good things or bad things to come to us. However, it is really our own inner conditionings and processes that are leading us to experience outer effects or consequences in relation to our own actions.
(Swami Jnaneshvara Bharati)



Nothing happens by chance.
Every occurrence has its cause from which
it follows by necessity.
(Democritus)

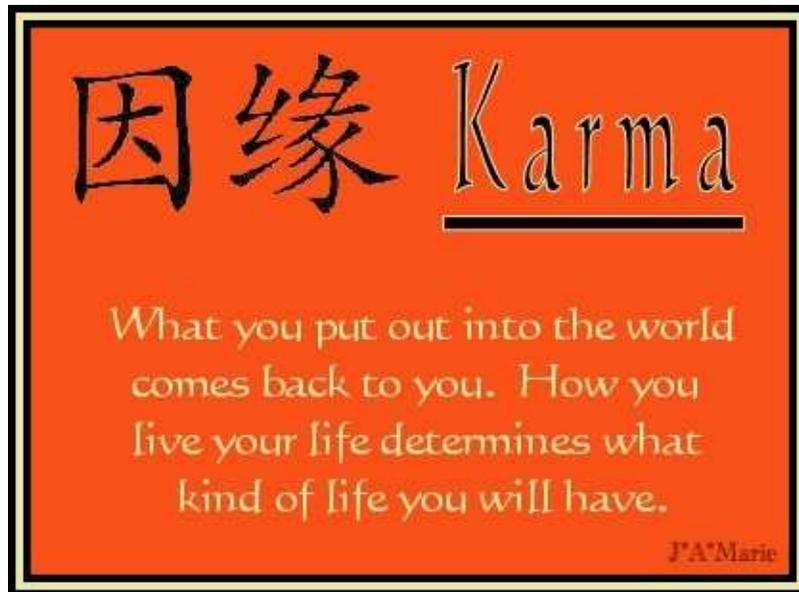


Shiva

Belief in karma ought to make the life pure, strong, serene, and glad.
Only our own deeds can hinder us; only our own will can fetter us.
Once men recognize this truth, the hour of their liberation has struck.
(Annie Besant)

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of
choice; it is not a thing to be waited for,
it is a thing to be achieved.

(William Jennings Bryan)



The proper understanding and use of the law of Karma enables man to master his own destiny. Each person has become what he is through his own accumulated actions; and it is through his actions that he can mould himself according to the pattern of his heart, or finally emancipate himself from the reign of Karmic determination.

(Meher Baba)

The time will indeed come when our allotted karma will be played out and we will enter into a peaceful rest to contemplate the experience. But then we will plunge again into the rippling world of cause and effect and play the game one more time, but a little wiser than before.

(JJ Dewey)

Karma is effects that are waiting to materialize because a cause has placed energy into motion.

(JJ Dewey)

In nature there are neither rewards or punishments -
there are consequences.

(Robert Ingersoll)



And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof on the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shall be justified: by thy words thou shall be condemned.

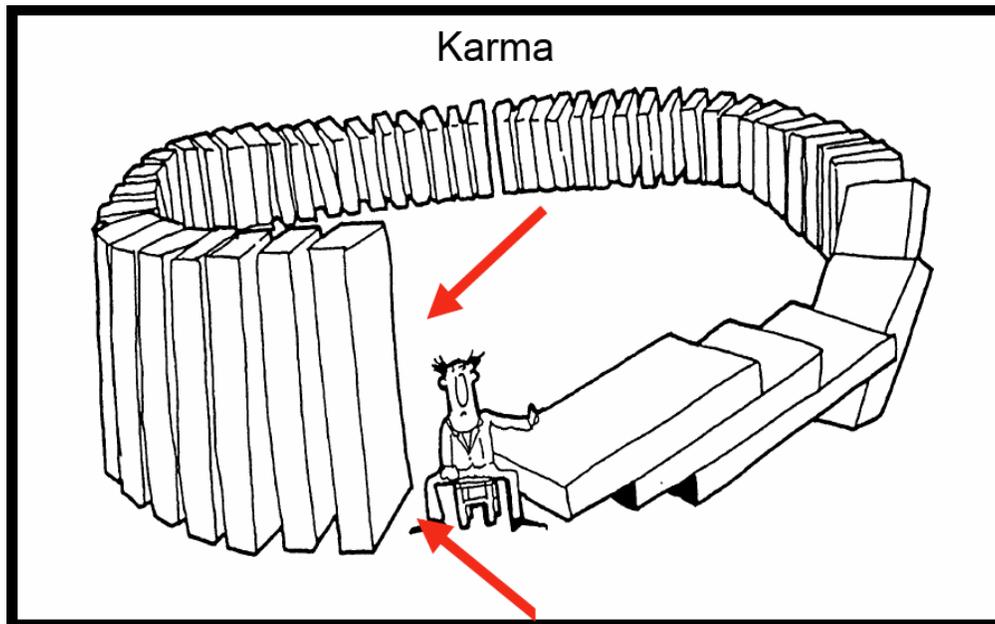
(Jesus Christ)

Karma moves in two directions. If we act virtuously, the seed we plant will result in happiness. If we act non-virtuously, suffering results.

(Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche)

You created certain causes in past lives
and the effects are working out in this one.

(JJ Dewey)



In the Buddhist view, there are no accidents. In very simple terms, the traditional Buddhist Law of Dependent Origination means that every cause has an effect, and every effect has a cause.

(Lama Surya Das)

Not in the heavens above, nor in the farthest reaches of the sea, nor by transporting yourself to the remotest valleys of the mountains, will you be able to hide from the consequences of your own evil actions. Likewise, certain are the blessings growing out of your good actions.

(Buddha)

If you help others, you will be helped, perhaps tomorrow, perhaps in one hundred years, but you will be helped. Nature must pay off the debt. It is a mathematical law and all of life is mathematics.

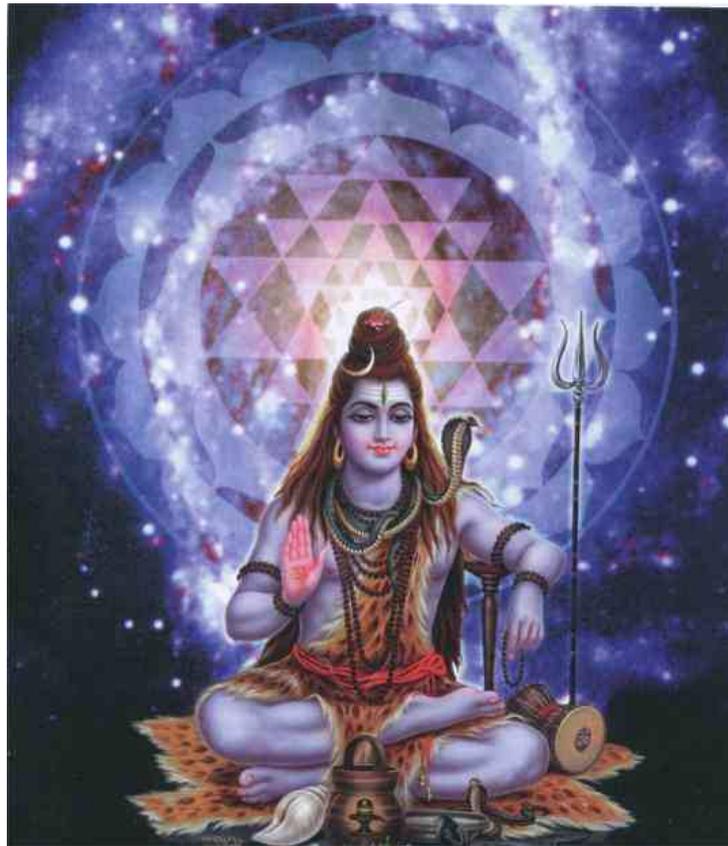
(George I. Gurdjieff)

Chance is a word void of sense,
nothing can exist without a cause.

(Voltaire)

Six things are pre-ordained or covered by fate karma:
health and sickness, poverty and opulence, honor and ignominy.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

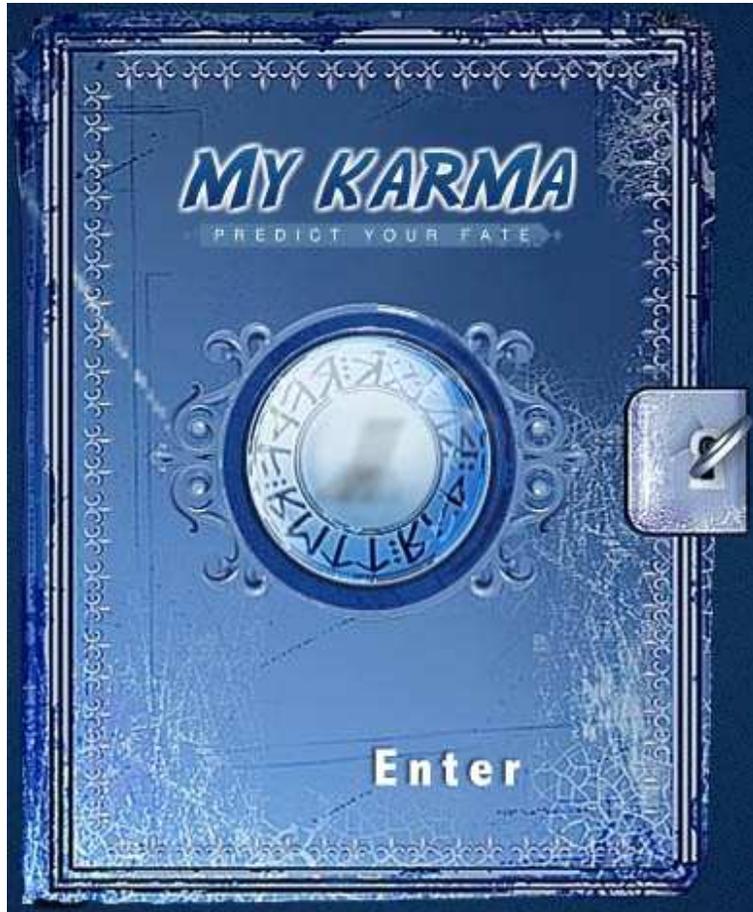


Our present life depends on those reactions of the past karmas which are bearing fruit. They are called pralabdha karma. On that karma our length of life is based. According to that, some people get children, some die, some are ugly, some are old, some have a give-and-take. This is based on those karmas or seeds which have grown in the past and are now bearing forth fruit in action. This you cannot change. When a railroad line is laid down, the train will run over it.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

If you want to know your past life, look into your present condition; if you want to know your future life, look at your present actions.

(Buddha)



The law of karma spells out very meticulously that everything has its implications; every thought, word, and deed has an effect. Everything, absolutely everything, we think, say, or do makes a difference. Wrap your mind around that thought. Karma implies conditioning and repetition. This is a joyous liberating message because every moment we are presented with the possibility of changing the future. We change, and our future changes too. This is the truth. This is karma. We are responsible; the lever of our own destiny remains in our hands.

(Lama Surya Das)

How people treat you is their karma;
how you react is yours.

(Wayne Dyer)

We have to meet certain people; we have to part from others.
This meeting and parting is also in conformity with the Law of Karma.
It is on this basis that the functions in and of this world are performed.

(Adi Granth)



Karma is like this: If we set causes in motion the effects come back to us.
(JJ Dewey)

Rest assured that before you were born here, the arrangement of your
livelihood was made. The pains and pleasures and general run of life were
then determined. This was not by any haphazard process,
but by a carefully regulated system.

(Baba Sawan Singh)

Good and evil do not befall men without reason.
Heaven sends them happiness or misery according
to their conduct.

(Confucius)



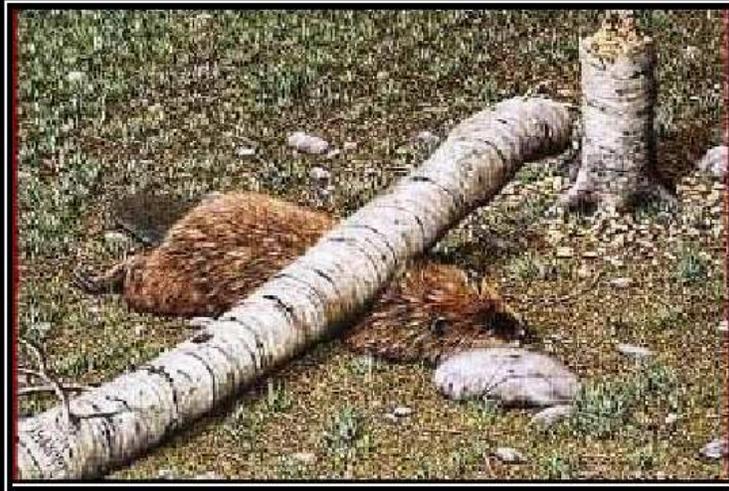
The Lord of Karma

As sweet as honey is an evil deed, so thinks the fool so long as it ripens not;
but when it ripens, then he comes to grief. An evil deed committed does
not immediately bear fruit, just as milk does not curdle at once; but like a
smoldering fire covered with ashes, it remains with the fool until the
moment it ignites and burns him.

(Buddha)

The keenest sorrow is to recognize ourselves
as the sole creator of all our adversities.

(Sophocles)



Karma

It's A Bitch

Understanding the play of karma is one aspect of awakening. If we are not aware, our life will simply follow the pattern of our past habits over and over. But if we can awaken, we can make conscious choices in how we respond to the circumstances of our life. Our conscious response will then create our future karma. We may or may not be able to change our outer circumstances, but with awareness we can always change our inner attitude, and this is enough to transform our life. Even in the worst external circumstances, we can choose whether we meet life from fear and hatred or with compassion and understanding.

(Jack Kornfield)

There is an old saying that though the mills of the gods grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly fine. That is only another way of saying that one can never escape his own karma.

(Julian P. Johnson)

The acts of this life are the destiny of the next.
(Hindu saying)

Disease is due to past karma and disappears when the karma has run
its course.
(Baba Sawan Singh)

The main events of life are the results of our past actions, and this is debt
that stands against us; and like a debtor we should be happy when the debt is
being paid off.
(Baba Sawan Singh)



The process of cleaning is going on, and after all, what is a ten or twelve
years' period, or even one lifetime, in which the karmic accounts of all the
previous innumerable lives has to be settled!
(Baba Sawan Singh)

It is easier to pay the karmic debt on the physical plane and it is more
advantageous to pay as much of it as possible here than to carry it to the
planes within.
(Baba Sawan Singh)

Free will and determinism are like a game of cards.
The hand that is dealt you represents determinism.
The way you play your hand represents free will.



Every action, thought, and feeling is motivated by an intention, and that intention is a cause that exists as one with an effect. If we participate in the cause, it is not possible for us not to participate in the effect. In this most profound way, we are held responsible for our every action, thought, and feeling, which is to say, for our every intention.

(Gary Zukav)



As the Buddha pointed out, your intentions create your karma. Your will and intentions direct your mind, which controls the way you think, speak, and act. Your intentions establish the priorities in your life. Your past intentions condition or perpetuate your present intentions, habits, and propensities. This is where karma is created.

(Lama Surya Das)



What brings the karmic result from the patterns of our actions is not our action alone. As we intend and then act, we create karma: so another key to understanding the creation of karma is becoming aware of intention. The heart is our garden, and along with each action there is an intention that is planted like a seed. The result of the patterns of our karma is the fruit of these seeds.

(Jack Kornfield)

It is due to the evolution of some rare good karma
that one yearns for spiritual enlightenment...

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

A disciple once lamented, "I don't think I have very good karma, Master."
Emphatically Yogananda replied, "Remember this: It takes very, very, very
good karma for a person even to want to know God!"



Without good karma, you cannot meet a Guru;
and then it happens only with God's grace.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

You must reach the supreme Goal in due time. Some reach it sooner,
others later, according to their individual efforts and the karma they
have to overcome.

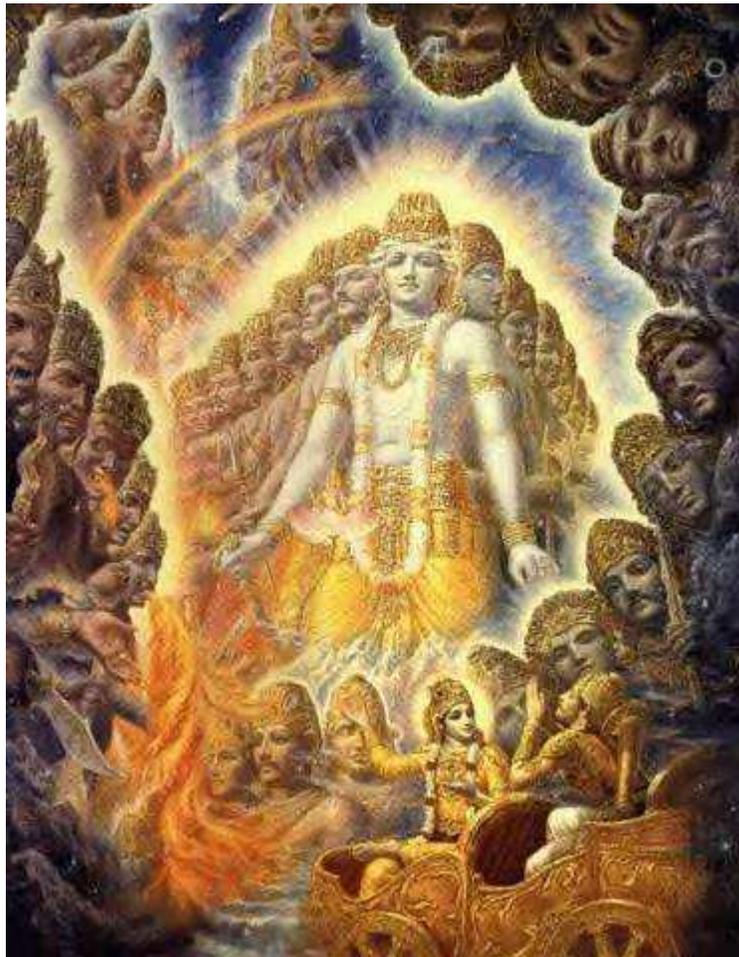
(Baba Sawan Singh)

God does not play dice with the universe.

(Albert Einstein)

Whatever comes into our lives, sometimes good, sometimes not to our taste, is all due as a reaction of our past karma. What you have sown, you will have to reap. It is no fault of God, it is our own fault.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)



Still others commit all sorts of evil deeds, claiming karma doesn't exist. They erroneously maintain that since everything is empty, committing evil isn't wrong. Such persons fall into a hell of endless darkness with no hope of release. Those who are wise hold no such conception.

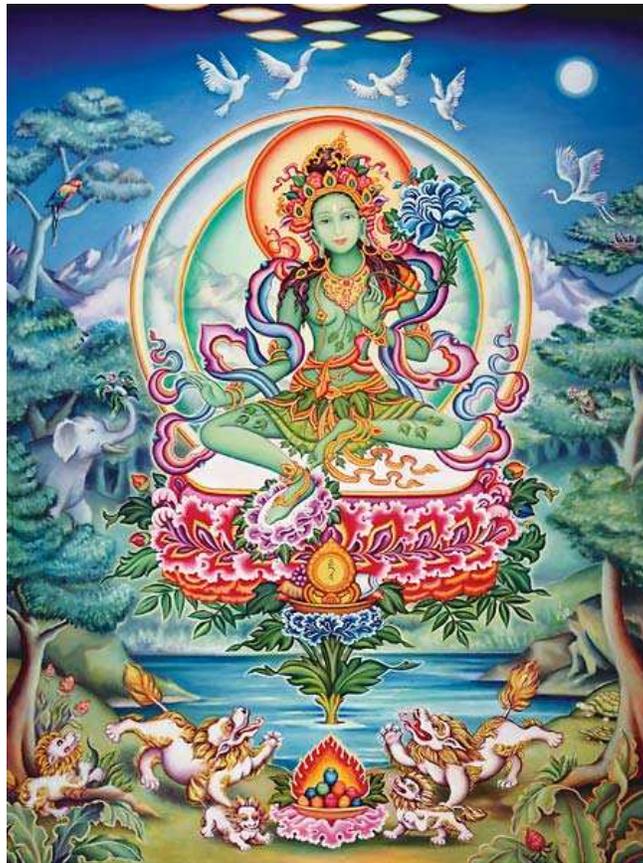
(Bodhidharma)

Whatever affliction may visit you is for what
your own hands have earned.

(Quran)

A thought of anger or hatred sends arrows from the mental factory towards
the person aimed at, hurts the individual, sets up discord and disharmony
in the thought-world, and comes back again to the sender
and harms the sender also.

(Swami Sivananda)



No man in the world ever attempted to wrong another without being injured
in return - some way, somehow, some time. Nature keeps her books
admirably; she puts down every item, she closes all accounts finally,
but she does not always balance them at the end of the month.

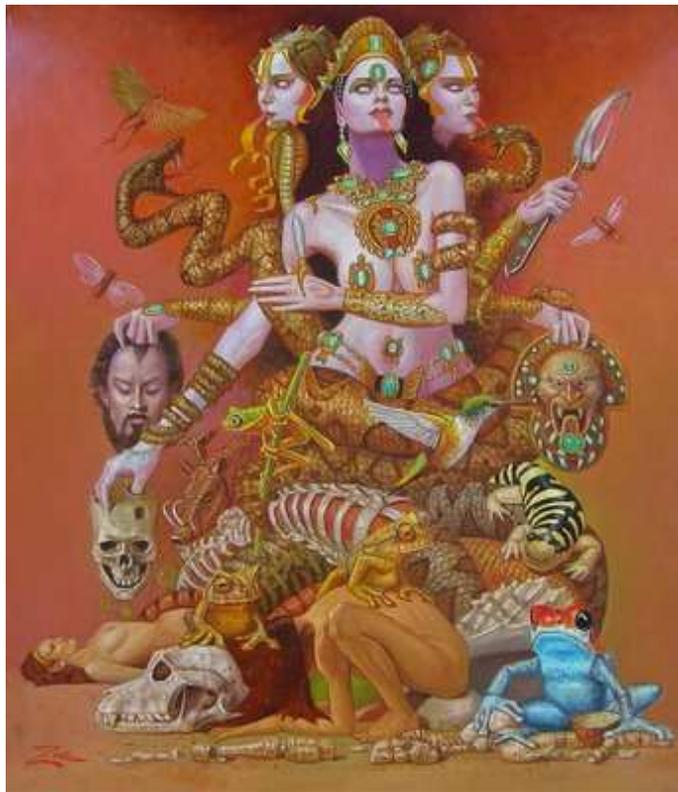
(William G. Jordan)

Those who wrongfully kill men are only putting their
weapons into the hands of others who will
in turn kill them.

(Lao-Tzu)

Every human being is the artificer of his own fate.
Events, circumstances, etc., have their origin in ourselves.
They spring from seeds which we have sown.

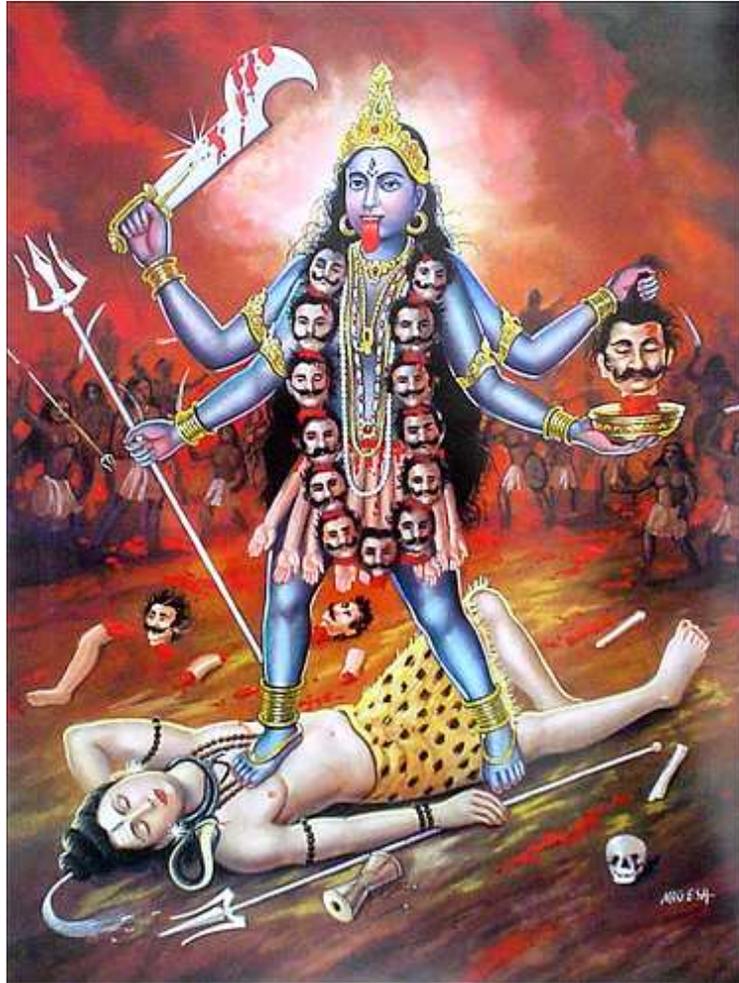
(Henry David Thoreau)



Because the law of karma is inevitable and infallible,
whenever we harm others, we are directly harming ourselves,
and whenever we bring them happiness, we are bringing ourselves
future happiness.

(Sogyal Rinpoche)

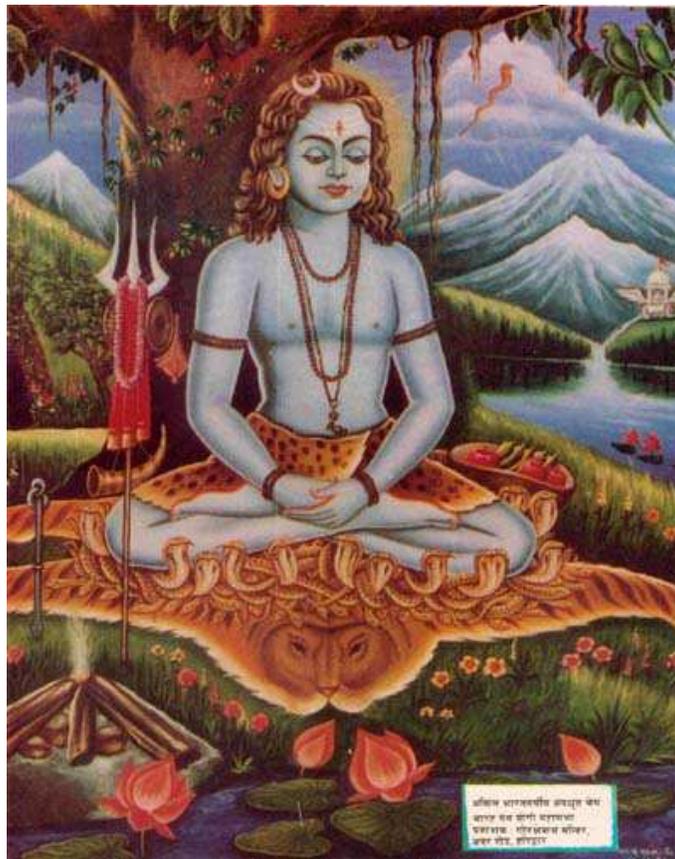
The glory of human nature lies in our seeming
capacity to exercise conscious control
of our own destiny.
(Winston Churchill)



Which do you think is larger, the highest mountain on earth or the pile of bones that represents the lives that you have lived over and over in every realm governed by the patterns of your own karma? Greater, my friends, is the pile of bones than the highest mountain on earth.
(Buddha)

There is not place in the universe, no mountain,
no sky, no heaven where one does not undergo the
consequences of actions performed by oneself.
(Yoga Vasistha)

Cause and effect, means and ends, seed and fruit, cannot be severed;
for the effect already blooms in the cause, the end pre-exists in the means,
the fruit in the seed... You cannot do wrong without suffering wrong.
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)



Never goes a sin without its due return; and deeds of noble goodness, or dire
sin, bear their just fruit, here, in this very life. Never is there escape from
consequences, because the Great Judge dwells within each heart.
(Mahabharata)

We sow our thoughts, and we reap our actions; we
sow our actions, and we reap our habits; we sow our
habits, we reap our characters; we sow our characters
and reap our destiny.

(C.A. Hall)

Nothing in all Nature is more certain than the fact that no single thing or
event can stand alone. It is attached to all that has gone before it, and it will
remain attached to all that will follow it. It was born of some cause, and so
it must follow by some effect in an endless chain.

(Julian P. Johnson)



The law of cause and effect is inexorable and unrelenting. You reap a
harvest of suffering, poverty, pain and sorrow, because you have sown the
seed of evil in the past. You reap a harvest of plenty and bliss owing to
your sowing of seeds of good.

(Sivananda)

The karmic law is supreme and inevitable, and the sooner we reconcile ourselves with it the better. Nothing happens which has not been ordained.
(Baba Sawan Singh)

The fate karma undoubtedly is strong. It has to be born, and there is no escape from it. But, through meditation, the will power becomes so strong that a person does not feel or mind either its favorable or adverse effects. If meditation has taken us above the point from where the fate karma works on us, we become indifferent to its effects.

Therefore, meditation is the antidote to karma.
(Baba Sawan Singh)



The karmic law is supreme on the material and the mind planes, and nothing happens of its own accord, spontaneously, so to say. The law governs the planes; therefore, no haphazard happening of events takes place anywhere, whether the events are of microscopic or catastrophes, only they suffer who are destined to suffer.

(Baba Sawan Singh)

Man takes birth here and his destiny comes with him. This destiny cannot be changed. Man has to undergo it. The destiny is of his own making. What he had sown before, he reaps now. Therefore, the wise undergo their destiny with patience and fortitude, while the unwise undergo it all the same, but are dissatisfied and worried.

(Baba Sawan Singh)

I will put the Law of Karma into effect by making a commitment to take the following steps:

Today I will witness the choices I make in each moment. And in the mere witnessing of these choices, I will bring them to my conscious awareness. I will know that the best way to prepare for any moment in the future is to be fully conscious in the present.

Whenever I make a choice, I will ask myself two questions: “What are the consequences of this choice that I’m making?” and “Will this choice bring fulfillment and happiness to me and also to those who are affected by this choice?”

I will then ask my heart for guidance and be guided by its message of comfort or discomfort. If the choice feels comfortable, I will plunge ahead with abandon. If the choice feels uncomfortable, I will pause and see the consequences of my action with my inner vision. This guidance will enable me to make spontaneously correct choices for myself and for all those around me.

(Deepak Chopra)



In India at the time of the Pandavas there was one Dhritarashtra. He was a great yogi but blind from birth. Lord Krishna asked him, "You are blind from your very birth. What caused it? What karma have you incurred, the result of which you are blind from birth?" And he told him, "By yogic power I know up to one hundred births back; and I have found no action the result of which I would be blind." So Lord Krishna, who was a yogishwar, just gave him help to go back still further. And he found that in his 106th birth back he had done the action which resulted in his present blindness. So mind that there are akashic records, you see. Whatever we speak, whatever we think, that is recorded in the akash. Those who can read those records, they can give you statements made hundreds of births back.

(Sant Kirpal Singh)

<http://www.ruhanisatsangusa.org/lawkarma.htm>



May your soul be happy;
journey joyfully.
(Rumi)

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