

HOW DO WE APPROACH SACRED TEXTS WITHOUT BECOMING LITERALISTS?

1. What do we mean by “Sacred Texts?”
-Share examples
2. What are some of the sacred texts, writings, or world religions that inform and help to guide you?
3. What are the things that are sources of inspiration/guidance in these texts/writings? What are some points which create difficulty?
4. In Unitarian-Universalism we speak about “Honoring all paths and traditions...” What do you appreciate about this approach? What causes discomfort in this approach?
5. Discuss the following terms:
 - Myth
 - Simile
 - Metaphor
 - PersonificationHow are these literary devices used in the texts which you find yourself most able to identify with?
6. What process do you use to sort out the realities of historical time frame, culture, and societal norms when reading religious texts? How about issues of translation and language nuances.

7. How do we challenge the validity of sacred writing without becoming arrogant or hostile?

8. What do you think causes some persons to have an especially negative reaction to some sacred texts and their content while feeling very comfortable with other texts that have some of the same traits that cause discomfort.

9. Discuss the word, "tolerance." What uses of this word do you appreciate and what cause difficulty?

10. Is it possible to examine our own wounds or prejudices and move toward a kind of healing or wholeness in confronting the difficult texts of other traditions?