

President Todd ... Dr. Cardoza ... fellow Rotarians ...

SERVICE ABOVE SELF. ...

SERVICE BEFORE SELF.

Leading With Love

THE ONE ... OUR FAMILIAR MOTTO WITHIN ROTARY, WHICH CONVEYS OUR PHILOSOPHY OF UNSELFISH VOLUNTEER SERVICE. ... THE OTHER ... A SIMILAR EXPRESSION ... VOICED FOR DECADES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ... EMPHASIZES THAT WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING > OURSELVES.

THE TWO MOTTOS DIFFER ONLY IN NUANCE ... AND HAVE ... AN ANCIENT MEANING – ROOTED ... IN GENESIS CHAPTER 4, WHERE CAIN ... AFTER KILLING ABEL... ASKS, ... “AM I MY BROTHER’S KEEPER?”

FOR ME ... BEGS ANOTHER Q – WHO ... ARE WE ... IF WE ANSWER, “NO”?

SUCH THOUGHTS CAN GIVE US OUR FAMILIAR, “DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.” ... BUT THAT IDEA ... DRAWS FROM OUR **JEWISH** TRADITION ... BOOK OF TOBIT/TOBIAS WRITTEN 300 YEARS BEFORE JESUS ... “WHAT IS HATEFUL TO YOU, DO NOT DO TO OTHERS.”

EVEN EARLIER, BOTH ECHO **THE BUDDHA** (6th C BCE) WITH, “HURT NOT OTHERS IN WAYS THAT YOU YOURSELF WOULD FIND HURTFUL.” ...

ISLAM (7TH C CE) ... ALSO PICKS UP THIS IDEA BY TEACHING, ... “NO ONE OF YOU IS A BELIEVER ... UNTIL HE DESIRES FOR HIS BROTHER ... THAT WHICH HE DESIRES FOR HIMSELF.”

BUT MY FAVORITE ... FROM THE **SHINTO FAITH** IN JAPAN – “THE HEART OF THE PERSON BEFORE YOU IS A MIRROR. SEE THERE YOUR OWN FORM.”

AND SO ON ... AND SO ON ... THIS NOTION OF FEELINGS FOR THE OTHER, ... OF CARING ... OF *SERVICE* TO ANOTHER, ... APPEARS THROUGHOUT OUR HUMAN HISTORY, ... THROUGH VIRTUALLY EVERY CULTURE AND FAITH TRADITION WE HAVE KNOWN ... FOR NEARLY 4,000 YEARS, ... BACK TO THE

EARLIEST RECORDED VERSION IN THE **ANCIENT EGYPTIAN** POEM ... '*TALE OF THE ELOQUENT PEASANT*,' FROM AROUND 1900 BCE ... THIS GIVES US:

“DO FOR ONE WHO MAY DO FOR YOU, ...
... THAT YOU MAY CAUSE HIM THUS TO DO.”

A SCORE OR MORE OF FAITH TRADITIONS HAVE DECLARED FOR AND BUILT ON THIS IDEA. ... AND ... SINCE I KNOW YOU ARE ALL CLOSET ACADEMICS ... I HAVE COMPILED A LIST HERE ... OF THE ONES I HAVE FOUND – OVER TWO DOZEN ... AND I HAVE COPIES – ... IF YOU'RE CURIOUS.

THESE SENTIMENTS GIVE US OUR TAPROOT ... INTO FAITH ... INTO VALUES.

... SO TODAY WE PUT IT THIS WAY ...

SERVICE BEFORE SELF. ... SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

BELIEVE IT. ... LIVE IT.

President Todd ...?
