QUOTATIONS - MAINLY ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Anon (taken from the *Native American Indian Traditional Code of Ethics*. Inter-Tribal Times, 1994-OCT)

> *"8. All the races and tribes in the world are like the different colored flowers of one meadow. All are beautiful. As children of the Creator they must all be respected."*

Anon

> *"Toleration is not much. But it is the first step towards curiosity, interest, study, understanding, appreciating and finally valuing diversity. If we can get everyone on the first step of tolerance, at least we won't be killing each other."*

Anon

> *"Religious tolerance is not religious indifference. Tolerance means to value the right of another person to hold beliefs that you know are absolutely wrong."*

Abdul Baha, "I Heard Him Say"

> *"Let us have love and more love, a love that melts all opposition, a love that conquers all foes, a love that sweeps away all barriers, a love that aboundeth in charity, a large-heartedness, tolerance, forgiveness and noble striving, a love that triumphs over all obstacles."*

Dr. Erhard Busek, M.P., Austria

> *"The struggle against intolerance is a duty of the individual as well as an obligation of the society."*

Eldridge Cleaver, "Soul on Ice"

> *"The price of hating other human beings is loving oneself less."*

James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family" interviewed by Tony Snow of Fox News Channel, 2004-SEP-20:

> *It is very important to understand that pluralism is part of our system. We don't all think the same thing and part of our strength is that we come from different perspectives. We have to respect one another even when we disagree with each other. There has to be a spirit of tolerance for the views of others, while also being deeply committed to the positions we hold. If we do that, I think we can coexist and learn to love each other better."*

Albert Einstein

"The wiser you are, the more you believe in equality, because the difference between what the most and the least learned people know is inexpressibly trivial in relation to all that is unknown."

George Eliot

"The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision."

Walter Farrell, *"The Looking Glass"*

"Tolerance does not... do anything. Embrace anyone... champion any issue. It wipes the notes off the score of life and replaces them with one long bar of rest. It does not attack error, it does not champion truth, it does not hate evil, it does not love good."

- Robert I. Gannon

"Tolerance... is the lowest form of human cooperation. It is the drab, uncomfortable, halfway house between hate and charity."

- Goethe, *"Maxims and Reflections"*

"Toleration ought in reality to be merely a transitory mood. It must lead to recognition. To tolerate is to affront."

- Senator Barry M. Goldwater, 1981-SEP-16

"The great decisions of government cannot be dictated by the concerns of religious factions... We have succeeded for 205 years in keeping the affairs of state separate from the uncompromising idealism of religious groups and we must not now, to retreat from that separation would violate the principles of conservatism and the values upon which the framers built this democratic republic."

- David Grayson

"Commandment #1 of any truly civilized society is this: Let people be different."

- Martin Luther

"Peace if possible, but truth at any rate."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I have a dream... that some day my children will be judged not by the color of their skin but rather by the content of their character."

Dr. Thomas Klestil, President of the Federal Republic of Austria

"The more people come together, the more borders will be opened and people and opinions get together, the more unrenouncable tolerance will be a fundamental part of our social life. Without tolerance there is no religious liberty, no freedom of conscience and no freedom of thought."

Arthur J. Kropp, former U.S. Surgeon General

"The American ideal is not that we all agree with each other or even like each other every minute of the day. It is rather that we will respect each other's rights, especially the right to be different, and that, at the end of the day, we will understand that we are one people, one country, and one community, and that our well-being is inextricably bound up with the well-being of each and every one of our fellow citizens."

Eric von Kuehnelt-Leddihn, *"Principles of the Portland Declaration"*

"19. Tolerance can be exercised only by those who have well-grounded convictions (although it will not always be exercised even by them). For such people tolerance is an act of self-abnegation, although they are convinced that those who differ from them must be wrong, they nevertheless will protect their rights."

Hans Kung, Theologian

"There will be peace on earth when there is peace among the world religions."

Richard D. Mohr, "A More Perfect Union"

"Religious belief is a fine guide around which a person might organize his own life, but an awful instrument around which to organize someone else's life."

Bill Moyers

"If being tolerant of differing opinions, if believing that America has to make it as a pluralistic nation, if being civil, if that makes you a liberal, I plead guilty."

Prophet Muhammad: Riyadh us-Saleheen Volume 1:632

"You have two qualities which God, the Most Exalted, likes and love: One is mildness and the other is toleration."

Prof. Fritz Muliar, Austrian actor

"Tolerance is obvious, but tolerance alone is not enough. Tolerance means more than toleration. I want more."

Pat Robertson

"You say you're supposed to be nice to the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists and this, that, and the other thing. Nonsense, I don't have to be nice to the spirit of the Antichrist. I can love the people who hold false opinions but I don't have to be nice to them."

Senator Warren Rudman

"The millions of Christians in this country reflect just about every conceivable political point of view. For one highly conservative group to proclaim itself 'the Christian Coalition' strikes me as decidedly anti-Christian arrogance.... We reflect countless races, religions and lifestyles, and we often differ on questions of morality and behavior. The only way so diverse a nation can survive is by all of us practicing a high degree of tolerance. But tolerance is not the way of the Christian right. Its leaders want to impose their one-size-fits-all morality on everyone. It won't work. When any group tries to impose its values on everyone else, the result will inevitably be resentment, hatred and violence.

John Shelby Spong, Episcopal Bishop

"When the dust settles and the pages of history are written, it will not be the angry defenders of intolerance who have made the difference. The reward will go to those who dared to step outside the safety of their privacy in order to expose and rout the prevailing prejudices."

Martin Niemoller

"In Germany, the Nazis first came for the Communists, and I did not speak up, for I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up, for I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak up, for I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak up, for I was a Protestant. And then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

National Conference of Christians and Jews' Statement on Religious Freedom and Mormonism

"It is not the policy of the National Conference to promote one religious faith over another or to champion the views of any religious group. However, it is our intent and our very purpose to oppose vigorously the actions of any group, religious or secular, that would enhance or engender religious prejudice."

Rabbi Ya'acov Perin

"One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail."

Simon Wiesenthal

"Tolerance and human rights require each other."

Wendell Willkie

"No man has a right, in America, to treat any other man TOLERANTLY. For TOLERANCE is the assumption of superiority."

References:

1. *"The Principles of the Portland Declaration,"* at: http://www.townhall.com/phillysoc/portland.htm
2. From his eulogy at the funeral of mass murderer Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who killed about 48 Palestinians in a machine-gun attack at Muslims in prayer in a mosque at the Tomb of Abraham in Hebron, Palestine. The quote was reported in an article by Clyde Haberman in the New York Times, 1994-FEB-28. See:

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Where there is one religion,
there is tyranny;
Where there are two,
you have religious war;
But where there are many,
you have freedom.
-Voltaire

IN A "PEANUTS" COMIC STRIP, LINUS LISTENS ATTENTIVELY AS HIS LITTLE SISTER TELLS HIM ABOUT HER POTENTIAL AS AN EVANGELIST. SHE SAYS TO LINUS:

"I WOULD HAVE MADE A GOOD EVANGELIST. DO YOU KNOW THAT KID WHO SITS BEHIND ME AT SCHOOL? I CONVINCED HIM THAT MY RELIGION IS BETTER THAN HIS RELIGION."

"HOW DID YOU DO THAT," LINUS ASKS.

"I HIT HIM WITH MY LUNCH BOX!" LUCY REPLIES.