

**Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even (King) Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (Matt. 6:28-29)**

The following is excerpted from a 2001 sermon by Rev. Richard Fewkes of First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

“It is interesting to compare Jesus' teaching about the lilies of the field with Gautama the Buddha's teaching about the secret of the golden flower. The story goes that one day the Buddha was gathered with a large assembly of his monks on a mount somewhere. They all awaited expectantly for him to impart his teaching through the spoken word.

...On this occasion, however, Gautama tried a different tack. ...This time he would see which of them would understand his teaching in a wordless sermon. They were all ears as they waited for him to speak. But no words came out of his mouth. Instead he just smiled, picked up a golden lotus flower, turned it in his fingers, and held it silently before his listeners.

Consider the lilies of the field, consider the secret of the golden lotus flower.

As William Blake puts it:

To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour.