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Equal spiritual consciousness: The divine foundation of human rights

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Abstract

This paper explores the proposition that human rights derive not merely from socio-political consensus or legal enactment, but from a metaphysical constant: the intrinsic equality of spiritual consciousness. Drawing from theological teachings, metaphysical reasoning, and spiritual-symbolic interpretation, we present the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness — the belief that all individual consciousnesses emanate from, and remain unified with, an undivided and impartial Divine Source. This principle offers a universal and immutable foundation for human dignity and moral equality. Engaging both global spiritual traditions (e.g., Vedanta, Christian theology, Mahāyāna Buddhism) and philosophical critiques of secularism (e.g., Rawls, Nussbaum, Habermas), the paper introduces a Vietnamese metaphysical framework rooted in Long Hoa Luật Tạng as an intercultural contribution to human rights thought. We examine the ontological and ethical implications of this doctrine and its potential to renew global human rights discourse in contexts where secular models struggle to generate moral consensus or cross-cultural legitimacy.

Keywords: Equal Spiritual Consciousness, divine law, human rights, spiritual justice, heavenly Father, dharma body, sacred roots of equality

Introduction

In contemporary thought, human rights are often constructed upon frameworks such as secular humanism, legal positivism, and democratic consensus. While these foundations have played vital roles in shaping modern rights-based discourse, they remain culturally contingent and historically situated. As such, they may lack the enduring universality and moral resonance required

to uphold human dignity in deeply pluralistic and spiritually diverse societies (Boersema, 2018; Brown, 1997; Donnelly, 2013; Mutua, 2002). When confronted with authoritarianism, moral relativism, or spiritual alienation, these frameworks sometimes struggle to inspire the ethical commitment needed to protect the vulnerable or to affirm the intrinsic worth of all people.

While secular theorists such as Rawls (1999), Nussbaum (2011), and Habermas (2015) have made vital contributions to rights discourse, this paper seeks to advance a more enduring foundation for human rights — one that draws from metaphysical and theological insight rather than purely legal or political logic. At the heart of this proposal lies the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness: the belief that every individual soul is an emanation of the same Absolute Source, possessing an equal share in divine essence, value, and dignity. From this perspective, human rights are not invented or negotiated but revealed, etched into the moral fabric of the universe.

This doctrine reorients the concept of equality away from the transactional or utilitarian and toward the ontological. It affirms that the worth of a human being is not determined by societal status, legal recognition, or civic participation, but by the spiritual truth that each person carries within them — the same inner light, the same spark of the Divine. Rights, in this view, are not privileges extended by the state, but sacred realities that precede and transcend political systems.

Such a vision is not new. Across religious and philosophical traditions, the idea of a shared divine essence has long undergirded the principle of moral equality. In Advaita Vedanta, the ultimate realization is that Atman (the self) is Brahman (the universal consciousness), and that distinctions between individuals are ultimately illusions (Prabhavananda, 2019; Shankara, 1970). This non-dualistic worldview asserts that all beings participate equally in the divine, regardless of material or social differences.

In Christian theology, the foundational belief that all humans are created *imago Dei*, in the image of God, anchors the idea of inherent dignity (Genesis 1:27, The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition; Takeuchi 2025; Towner 2005). Theologians such as Volf (1996) and Brown (2000) further emphasize that this divine likeness demands radical hospitality and the inclusion of the “other”. In this tradition, equality is not earned, but bestowed by creation itself, a truth that no law or state has the authority to nullify.

In Mahāyāna Buddhism, the concept of Buddha-nature teaches that all sentient beings possess the potential for enlightenment. This internal capacity links all beings in a web of spiritual parity and interdependence (Suzuki, 1994). The ethical implication is clear: to harm another being is not only a moral wrong, but a denial of their awakened essence.

This paper brings special focus to a Vietnamese articulation of this perennial intuition: the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness as expressed in Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao 2015), translated here as *The Canon of the Divine*. This sacred metaphysical scripture consists of divine revelations attributed to Cha Trời (the Heavenly Father), among which the 36 Fundamental Human Rights — revealed directly through his spoken word — stand out as the metaphysical and ethical core of the entire canon. These rights form the metaphysical and ethical core of the canon, offering a sacred framework for spiritual justice and human dignity. This paper centers on one of them: Equal Spiritual Consciousness. While this paper focuses solely on that particular right, we recognize it as part of a broader vision of moral law and metaphysical order.

In one of its core revelations, Cha Trời proclaims that all souls, regardless of form or origin, are manifestations of the Great Ancestral Soul (Đại Linh Hồn Tổ Tiên) (Cao, 2014). This affirmation of spiritual equality transcends distinctions of high or low, large or small, and offers a theological foundation for universal human dignity. It reframes rights not as civic constructs, but as sacred truths embedded in the cosmic fabric of existence.

Unlike secular declarations, which often rely on consensus or institutional authority, the vision offered in Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao, 2015) is both revelatory and cosmological. It frames human rights not as legal inventions, but as expressions of a sacred metaphysical order governed by Thiên Luật (Divine Law). To violate another's dignity is not merely to commit a civic offense, but to transgress Thiên Ý (the universal will of Heaven).

The doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness invites a transformative shift in how we understand justice, law, governance, and human value, challenging societies to protect rights not simply out of obligation or fear of punishment, but out of reverence for the divine presence in every human life.

Regarding methodology, this paper adopts a spiritual-symbolic approach combined with metaphysical philosophical analysis. The spiritual-symbolic method treats sacred texts not as literal doctrines, but as revelatory symbols that point to deeper ontological truths (Eliade, 1959; Tillich, 2001). Drawing on traditions of hermeneutic theology and comparative mysticism, this method interprets symbols such as “Heavenly Father,” “Great Ancestral Soul,” and “Divine Law” as expressions of universal metaphysical principles. The metaphysical-philosophical component draws from perennialist thought (Nasr 2012; Panikkar 2006) to explore being, unity, and spiritual dignity. Sources were selected from traditions that affirm spiritual equality — such as Advaita Vedanta, Mahāyāna Buddhism, Sufism, and Christian theology — and are placed in dialogue with the Vietnamese revelation Long Hoa Luật Tạng. The revelation in Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao, 2015) is interpreted not as dogmatic law, but as sacred symbolic discourse that reflects ontological truths. Sources were selected based on their affirmation of intrinsic spiritual equality and their metaphysical resonance with the core themes of Long Hoa Luật Tạng. The revelation itself was interpreted through a hermeneutic lens, as a sacred symbolic discourse, then placed in comparative dialogue with major traditions to draw out universal insights into justice, dignity, and spiritual unity. Through this metaphysical lens, we place the text in conversation with global human rights discourse, drawing on Vietnamese spiritual heritage to explore its philosophical contribution to universal justice, dignity, and equality.

Figure 1 illustrates the progression from divine source to equal spiritual consciousness, which gives rise to sacred human rights and culminates in social justice.

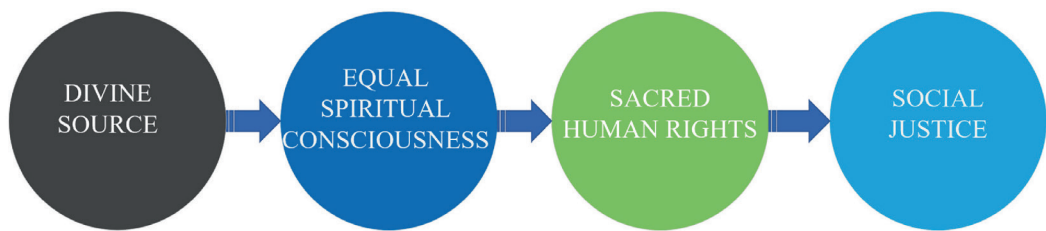


Figure 1 *Equal Spiritual Consciousness Diagram*

Revelation of Equal Spiritual Consciousness

This section presents the central revelatory teaching from Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao, 2015), in which the Heavenly Father proclaims the absolute equality of all spiritual consciousness. It introduces the sacred dialogue in which human dignity is framed not as a social construct, but as a metaphysical truth grounded in divine origin. This revelation serves as the theological and symbolic foundation for the ethical and legal implications explored in later sections.

The following revelation forms the cornerstone of this spiritual-human rights framework: Foundation of Human Rights: Equal Spiritual Consciousness Heavenly Father proclaims: “My

beloved children, do you perceive the Divine Body of Enlightened Spirit, the Original Essence of the Supreme Cosmic Soul of the Ancestors? Do you behold the nature of Equal Spiritual Consciousness?"

A hundred heavenly children answered in unison: "O Heavenly Father, we see clearly and understand deeply the Sacred Body of our Enlightened Ancestors. The essence of spiritual awareness is absolutely equal, without distinction, without variance, throughout the infinite cosmos.

There is no difference in high or low, great or small. Even if from the Sacred Body of the Ancestors arises a single hair of spiritual awareness, or countless such hairs, there is no inequality. Each spark of spiritual consciousness perceives, hears, feels, and knows in the same way. Absolute fairness. Everyone is as everyone else."

The Heavenly Father responded with praise: "Indeed, you have spoken truly. The Essence of the Ancestors is vast as the heavens, encompassing the boundless cosmos. The nature of Enlightened Spirit is eternally equal, unchanged by size or form. This is the sacred Dharma Body of equality. Thus, all life in its highest form must flow through the path of justice and fairness.

The Equal Spiritual Essence of the Great Ancestral Soul lives within each of your individual souls, and from this springs forth: The Right to Equality."

This is the divine foundation of human rights: the inherent, sacred equality of every person. No one is different in essence. Every individual, every family, every ethnic group, every nation possesses this right. The right to equality leads to a life of fairness. It is inviolable. To violate it is to transgress Divine Law. Depending on the severity, whether unintentional or willful, Heaven's Mystical Law will respond accordingly, dispensing judgment through sacred means.

To protect this right to equality, and to uphold a just life in accordance with Heaven's Will/ Divine Will (Thiên Ý), is a sacred and meaningful act. It is to safeguard the divine rights bestowed by the Creator, rights that are beyond the reach of harm (Cao, 2015).

This revelation not only affirms spiritual equality but also offers profound insights into the contemporary landscape of human rights philosophy.

The revelation from the Heavenly Father in Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao, 2015) not only establishes the right to equality as a spiritual reality for each individual soul, but also extends this sacred truth to all levels of collective existence: the family, the nation, and the global community. The declaration that "Every individual, every family, every ethnic group, and every nation possess this right" affirms that equality is an unchanging principle that encompasses every form of life grounded in the human order of society.

This represents a remarkable philosophical advancement, offering a contribution that complements modern human rights thought. After World War II, the international community arrived at a common acknowledgment that human rights are derived from the Creator, as formalized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, n.d.; United Nations General Assembly, 1948). However, that declaration emerged from a post-war socio-political context and largely emphasized the rights of individuals in relation to the state. Today, the world is facing profound divides between nations and religions — conflicts, wars, ideological crises, and spiritual fragmentation.

In this context, the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness emerges as a transformative model of understanding, one that transcends the realm of the individual to embrace all levels of collective human relationships. It is especially relevant in this time of global turbulence. This perspective invites a new direction for human rights philosophy: one that not only protects the rights of individuals but also seeks to reconcile the deep-seated conflicts among communities and nations on a global scale.

If embraced as a foundation for intercultural and metaphysical dialogue, this revelation has the potential to reshape global thinking about justice, rights, and responsibility, not only for individuals but also for nations, as they confront the cross-border crises of the 21st century: armed conflict, political polarization, and social and economic inequality.

Metaphysical Foundations and Comparative Traditions

The revelation of Equal Spiritual Consciousness, as articulated in the Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao, 2015), resonates with a deep-rooted metaphysical principle found across many spiritual and philosophical traditions: the oneness of being and the intrinsic equality of its expressions. At the heart of these traditions lies the belief that all individuals, despite their external differences, are emanations of a single, unifying spiritual source. This shared essence undergirds the moral claim that no soul is superior or inferior in nature, for all are reflections of the same divine reality.

In Islamic mysticism, for example, the doctrine of *tawhīd*, the absolute oneness of God, is not only a theological proposition but a moral imperative. As Nasr (2012) explains, divine justice in Sufism arises from the realization that all multiplicity is grounded in unity. When the spiritual seeker sees beyond superficial divisions and perceives the unity of existence, they inevitably affirm the equal worth of all souls. Justice, then, is not merely a social contract, but a spiritual act of recognition.

Similarly, Panikkar (2006) contends that authentic spiritual experience dissolves artificial boundaries, whether of culture, race, or creed, and unveils a profound interconnectedness of all beings. This mystical insight is not exclusive to any one tradition but is echoed in Advaita Vedānta's identification of Atman with Brahman, Christianity's doctrine of *imago Dei*, and Mahāyāna Buddhism's teaching of universal Buddha-nature. Each affirms that true equality is not conferred by society but revealed through spiritual insight into the indivisibility of the divine.

Building upon these metaphysical insights, Long Hoa Luật Tạng (Cao 2015) offers a profound affirmation of justice rooted in Divine Will, reaffirming the sacred origin of human dignity and establishing a transcendent order of justice where Thiên Ý (Divine Will) harmonizes humanity and the cosmos. As the revelation clearly proclaims: "If humanity desires peace, freedom, well-being, and happiness, it must abide by Divine Will, honor Divine Rights, and uphold Human Rights" (Long Hoa Luật Tạng, p. 109) (Cao, 2015). This teaching is not merely a moral directive; it is a metaphysical declaration of justice that surpasses the limits of human legislation. In this understanding, justice is not born from social negotiation but is the alignment with the sacred order of the universe.

Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications

This section explores how the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness transforms human rights, justice, and governance. It is organized around three interrelated philosophical pillars: (1) human rights as sacred mandates, (2) justice as a journey of spiritual restoration, and (3) governance as the fulfillment of Divine Will. Together, these insights reframe ethical and policy discourse within a metaphysical worldview.

Human Rights as Sacred Mandates

Human rights, when viewed through the lens of spiritual consciousness, are not merely legal entitlements negotiated through social contracts or political consensus. Rather, they are sacred affirmations of the divine nature that dwells within every human being. The doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness insists that each person is a living expression of the Divine Source, unique in form but equal in essence. From this perspective, rights to equality, dignity, and

freedom are not bestowed by governments or subject to revocation by political systems; they are inherent, non-negotiable, and spiritually irrevocable.

This metaphysical grounding redefines the moral weight of human rights. When societies recognize rights as sacred mandates, the protection of human dignity becomes a spiritual responsibility as much as a legal obligation. Institutions, laws, and leadership must align not only with constitutional principles but with the deeper truths of divine justice. In this sense, political violations of human rights are not simply administrative failures; they are offenses against the sacred unity of life itself. As Donnelly (2013) points out, rights disconnected from their moral foundation lose their power to compel universal respect and accountability.

Moreover, the acknowledgment of spiritual equality compels a profound reorientation of governance and law. It challenges societies to enact policies that reflect not only justice in outcome but reverence in intention. To deny someone's rights is not just an ethical lapse, it is to disrupt the divine order, to fracture the spiritual harmony that binds creation. Thus, a culture that embraces Equal Spiritual Consciousness does not merely protect rights; it sanctifies them, treating every person not as a legal subject, but as a sacred presence entitled to flourish in dignity and peace.

Justice and Restorative Ethics

When justice is rooted in the principle of Equal Spiritual Consciousness, it transcends the limitations of retribution and enters the domain of spiritual balance. Justice is no longer seen as merely the enforcement of law, but as the restoration of harmony between the soul, society, and the sacred order of the universe. Violations of human dignity are not isolated infractions, they are disruptions of cosmic harmony (Thiên Luật) (Cao, 2015), the divine law that sustains cosmic equilibrium. In this light, justice must be guided by the spiritual imperative to heal rather than to harm.

Traditional legal systems often emphasize punishment as a deterrent or retribution. While this may address external behavior, it frequently neglects the inner moral rupture that occurs when one soul harms another. A spiritually conscious approach seeks to restore that which was broken: the trust between individuals, the coherence of the community, and the offender's connection to their own moral core. Justice becomes a journey of atonement and reparation, where the goal is not to exile the wrongdoer but to bring them back into right relationship, with others and with the divine.

This restorative vision centers on three sacred tasks: acknowledgment, repentance, and transformation. The offender must acknowledge the harm done, not only in legal terms, but as a spiritual breach of the divine dignity inherent in the other. Repentance is not a ritual of guilt, but an act of humility, an offering to the community and to the cosmic order. Transformation becomes the fruit of this process: a reawakening of conscience that enables the individual to rejoin the moral fabric of society. This mirrors the principles of restorative justice as articulated by Zehr (2015), who emphasizes that true justice seeks healing rather than punishment, and by Braithwaite (2002), who links moral accountability to communal restoration. Within the framework of Thiên Luật (Divine Law), this approach to justice is more than ethical — it is metaphysical, restoring harmony among the soul, society, and the sacred.

Moreover, this ethic places equal emphasis on the healing of the victim. In many punitive systems, the voice of the victim is secondary to the procedural aims of the law. But under Divine Law (Cao, 2015), the pain of the victim is sacred and must be acknowledged, not abstractly, but with compassion and restoration. True justice seeks not only to hold the offender accountable, but to restore wholeness to the one who has suffered. Reconciliation is not forced, but facilitated through truth, support, and mutual recognition of shared spiritual worth.

Ultimately, a justice system informed by Equal Spiritual Consciousness affirms that all souls, whether wounded or transgressing, are capable of restoration. It refuses to reduce individuals to their worst actions and instead upholds the possibility of redemption through moral awakening. This perspective does not weaken justice; it deepens it. It demands accountability, but from a place of sacred regard for all beings. In doing so, it fulfills a higher law — one that echoes through the conscience of every culture: that justice, at its most profound, is the restoration of love, truth, and balance in the soul of the world.

Governance and Social Policy

A society grounded in the principle of Equal Spiritual Consciousness must elevate its vision of governance beyond mere management of power. In such a framework, governance becomes a sacred trust, an instrument to protect the divine dignity inherent in all individuals. Laws and institutions are not created solely for order, but for the higher aim of reflecting the justice and compassion of the spiritual realm. Every policy and decision must be weighed not only for its legality, but for its alignment with *Thiên Ý*, the divine will (Cao, 2014, 2015).

In this spiritually guided society, fairness becomes more than a political goal; it becomes a moral imperative. Equal access to education, health, housing, and public resources is not an act of charity, but an acknowledgment of the sacred worth present in each soul. To deprive someone of these essentials is to deny the manifestation of divine potential in the human experience. Thus, governance must be structured to ensure that no individual is excluded from the opportunity to flourish materially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

Opportunity, in this context, is not about leveling everyone to sameness, but about recognizing and nurturing the unique gifts that each person brings into the world. Policies should aim to eliminate structural injustices that prevent individuals from realizing their inherent purpose. Social equity, then, is not about entitlement, it is about creating conditions that allow the divine spark in each person to be fully expressed in service, creativity, and contribution to the common good.

Leadership in such a society is redefined as moral guardianship. The leader is not a ruler over others, but a servant of the people, entrusted with the responsibility to uphold sacred law and foster harmony. Leaders are expected to act with integrity, wisdom, and humility, guided by conscience rather than ambition. Authority is exercised not for dominance, but for the well-being of the collective, with constant awareness of the spiritual consequences of decisions that harm or uplift others.

Economic justice also takes on a new dimension. Resources are not viewed merely as commodities, but as sacred means for sustaining life and enabling service. Equitable distribution of wealth, fair wages, and compassionate economic systems are manifestations of a society that recognizes the divine in the daily needs of its people. Those who contribute virtuously are rewarded in proportion to the quality of their service, not only materially but through spiritual and communal esteem, as affirmed in *Long Hoa Luật Tạng* (Cao, 2015).

Moreover, public policy must reflect a culture of compassion. Legislation must be sensitive not only to statistical outcomes, but to human experience and moral consequence. Programs supporting the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable are not optional, they are essential expressions of the spiritual values embedded in the very fabric of a just society. Inclusion is not a political convenience, but a spiritual duty, reminding all members of the community that the soul of a person is measured by how it treats its most fragile members.

Finally, the long-term health of a spiritually conscious society depends on its ability to continuously reflect on and renew its moral compass. Civic education must include ethical formation, cultivating virtues such as empathy, service, and stewardship. Cultural systems, such as arts,

media, and education, must reinforce the message that every person is a sacred being with a purpose. In this way, governance becomes not only a structure of policy, but a living system of spiritual care, evolving toward greater truth, equity, and harmony.

Taken together, the three pillars presented in this section, human rights as sacred mandates, justice as a journey of spiritual restoration, and governance as the fulfillment of Divine Will, do not operate in isolation. Rather, they form an integrated philosophical whole, in which revelation serves not only as a wellspring of metaphysical insight, but also as the foundation for a coherent ethical and legal structure. It is this profound interconnectedness that lays the groundwork for the concluding section, where the deeper philosophical implications and the limitations of this doctrine will be contemplated through a global spiritual lens.

Conclusion

The doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness offers a compelling spiritual-philosophical foundation for grounding human rights beyond the constraints of political convention or cultural relativism. It asserts that all human beings — regardless of background, belief, or status — share an equal participation in the Divine Essence. In this light, human rights are not artificial constructs negotiated by states, but sacred recognitions of a deeper metaphysical truth.

This vision reorients the conversation around dignity and justice. Rather than rooting equality in secular consensus or utilitarian function, it grounds it in ontology: the very structure of being. Each soul is an expression of the same undivided Divine Source and therefore carries within it the same inalienable value. To deny one's rights is not simply to violate law; it is to reject the order of the cosmos itself.

In an era when secular systems often falter in the face of growing moral crises, inequality, and spiritual fragmentation, the doctrine of Equal Spiritual Consciousness offers a restorative perspective. It reintroduces the sacred into public discourse — not through dogma, but through a universal metaphysical intuition that honors the sanctity of life. To uphold human rights is to participate in a divine calling, not just a civic obligation.

This paper has advanced a theological-metaphysical argument that situates human rights within a broader cosmological vision. Drawing from Long Hoa Luật Tạng and related spiritual traditions, we have shown how Vietnamese metaphysical insights can contribute to the global reimagining of justice, identity, and moral community. By framing equality as a reflection of spiritual unity, this doctrine encourages a model of governance, law, and ethics grounded in compassion and cosmic alignment.

To defend equality is to serve Heaven. To honor each person's spiritual dignity is to uphold the sacred structure of creation. As spiritual beings navigating the human experience, we are reminded: “No one has the authority to strip another of their right to equality, so long as that person lives rightly, respecting the dignity and fairness owed to all.”

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