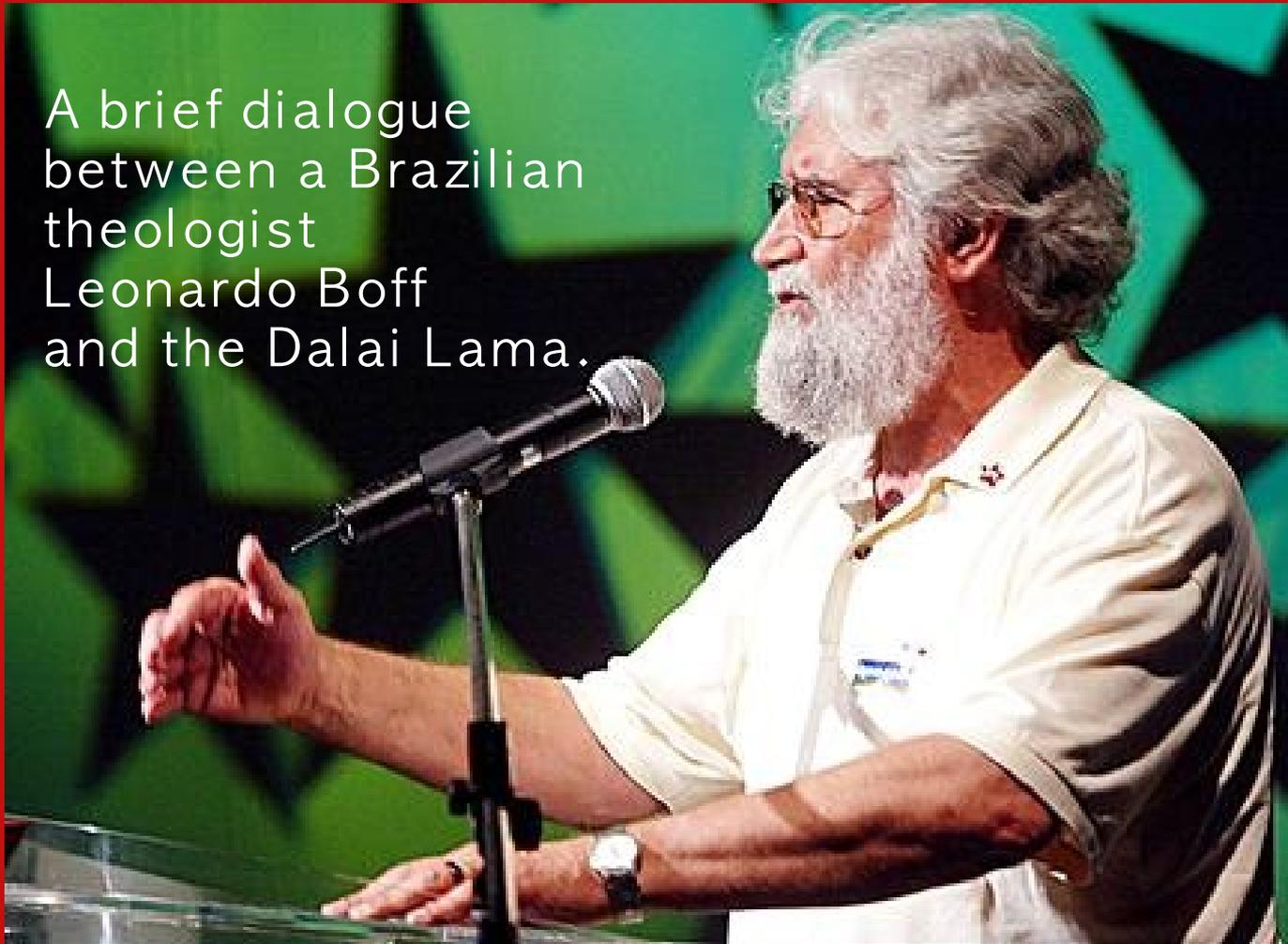


# YOUR RELIGION IS NOT IMPORTANT

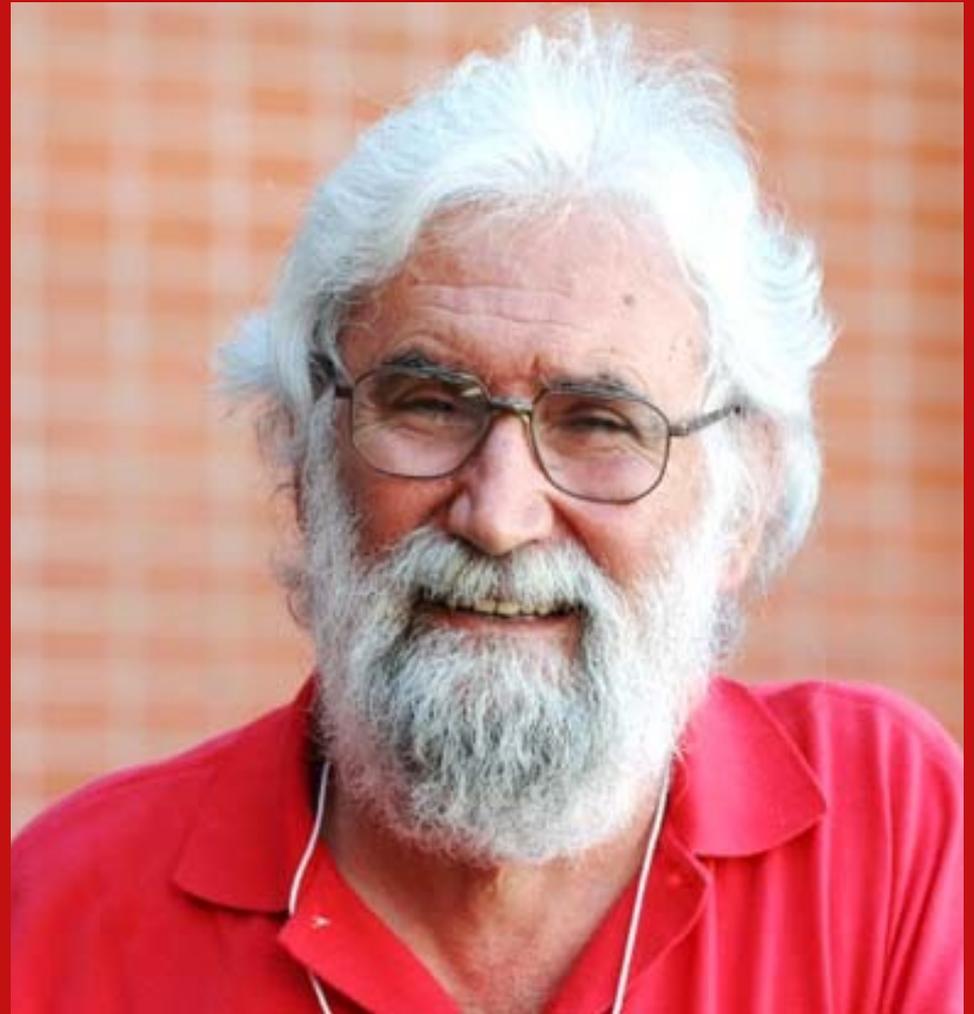
A brief dialogue  
between a Brazilian  
theologist  
Leonardo Boff  
and the Dalai Lama.



Leonardo is one of the renovators  
of the Theology of Freedom.

In a round table discussion about religion and freedom in which Dalai Lama and myself were participating at recess I maliciously, and also with interest, asked him:

***“Your holiness, what is the best religion?”***



I thought he would say:

*“The Tibetan Buddhism” or “The oriental religions, much older than Chritianity”*

Dalai Lama paused, smiled and looked me in the eyes ....



which surprised me because I knew of the malice contained in my question.

**He answered:**

*“The best religion is the one that gets you closest to God.  
It is the one that makes you a better person.”*



To get out of my  
embarrassment with such  
a wise answer, I asked:

*“What is it that makes me  
better?”*

He responded:

*“Whatever makes you  
more compassionate,  
more sensible,  
more detached,  
more loving,  
more humanitarian,  
more responsible,  
more ethical.”*

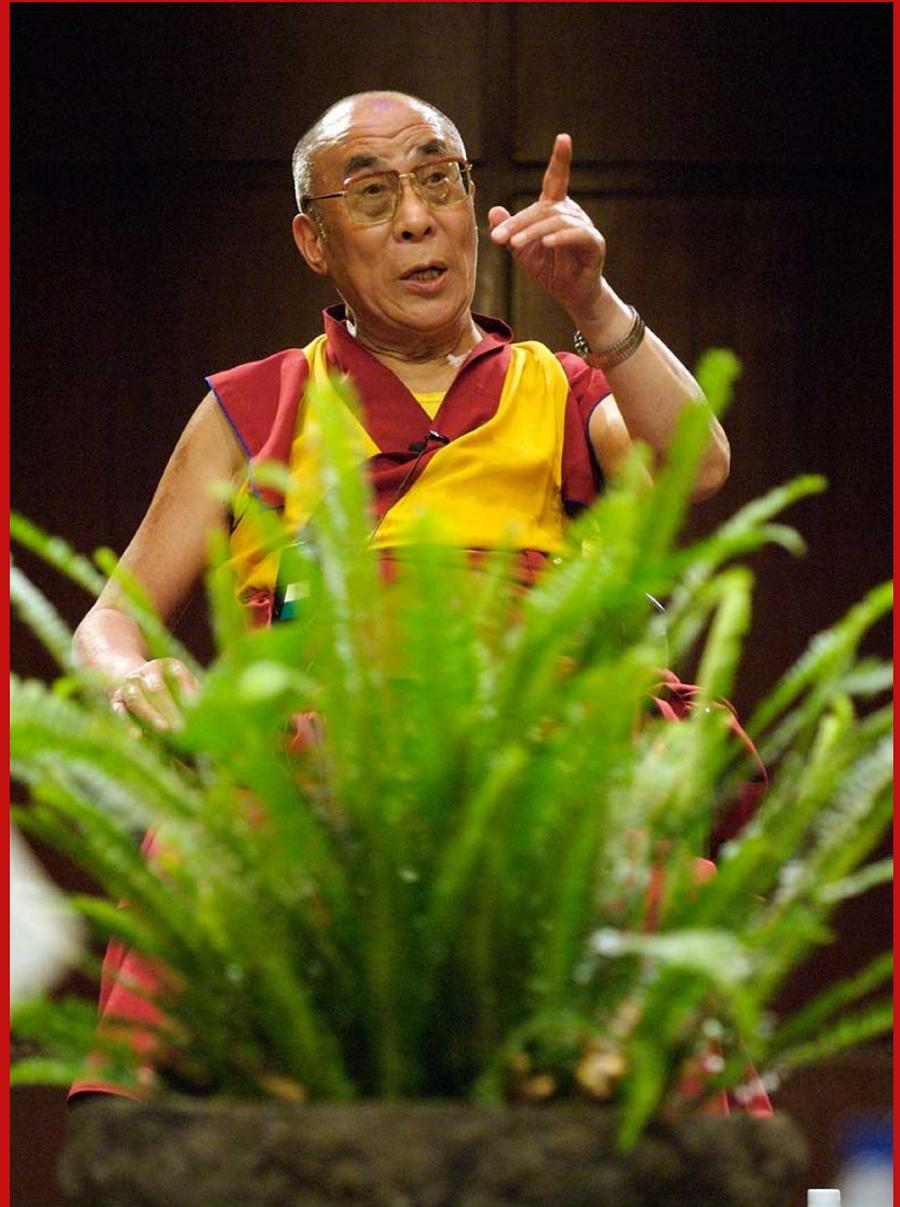
*“The religion that will do that  
for you is the best religion”*

I was silent for a moment,  
marvelling and even today  
thinking of his wise and  
irrefutable response:

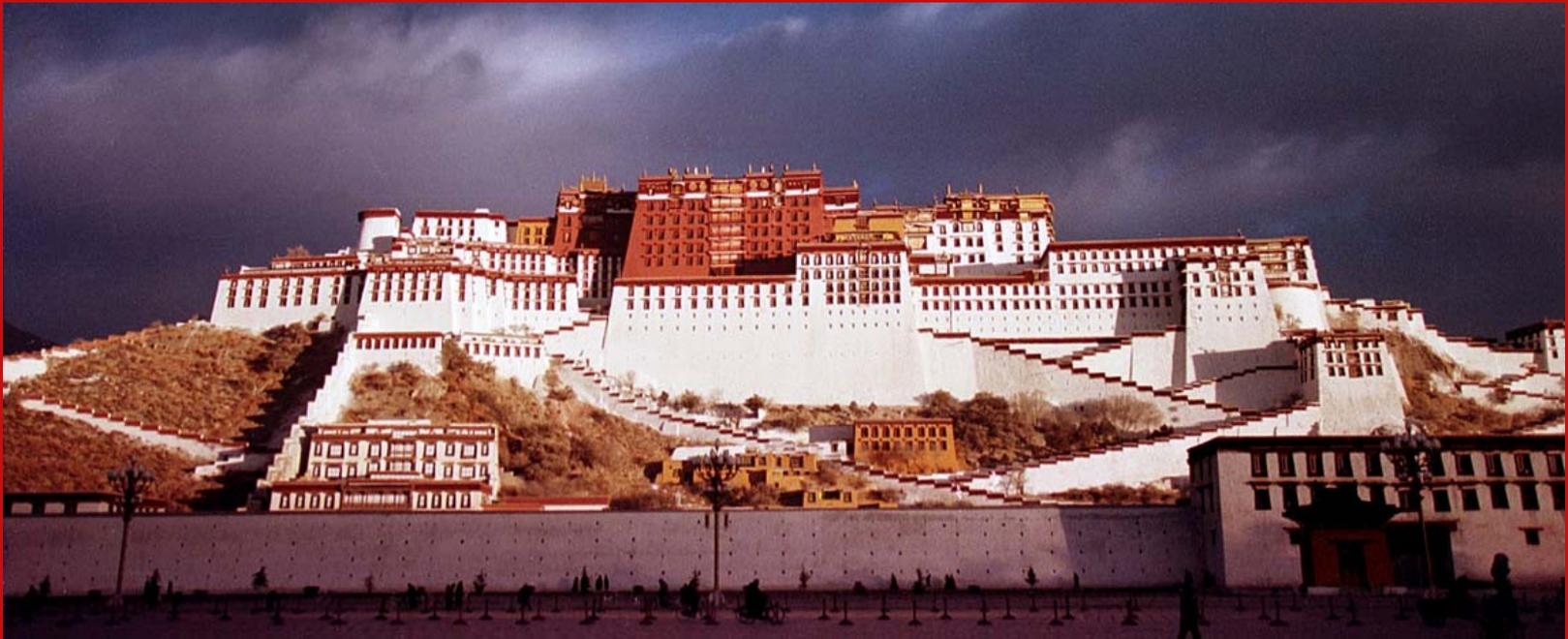
*“I am not interested, my friend,  
about your religion or if you are  
religious or not.”*

*“What really is important to me  
is your behaviour in front of  
your peers, family, work,  
community, and in front of the  
world.”*

*“Remember, the universe is the  
echo of our actions and our  
thoughts.”*



**“The law of action and reaction is not exclusively for physics. It is also of human relations.  
If I act with goodness, I will receive goodness.  
If I act with evil, I will get evil.”**



**“What our grandparents told us is the pure truth.  
You will always have what you desire for others.  
Being happy is not a matter of destiny.  
It is a matter of options.”**

**Finally he said:**

**“Take care of your Thoughts because they become Words.  
Take care of your Words because they will become Actions.  
Take care of your Actions because they will become Habits.  
Take care of your Habits because they will form your Character.  
Take care of your Character because it will form your Destiny,  
and your Destiny will be your Life  
... and ...**



**“There is no religion higher than the Truth.”**