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Source: An excerpt from the edicts of Asoka, circa 250 BCE.

Rock Edict XIII (Engraved eight years after Kalinga)

Today if a hundredth or a thousandth part of those people who were killed or died or were deported when Kalinga was annexed were to suffer..., it would weigh heavily on the mind of the Beloved of the Gods [Asoka].

The Beloved of the Gods believes that one who does wrong should be forgiven as far as it is possible to forgive him. And the Beloved of the Gods [wishes friendship] with the forest tribes of his empire, but he warns them that he has power even in his remorse and he asks them to repent, lest they be killed.

Note: Rock Edict XIII makes these additional points:

- Asoka's messengers have traveled as far as Syria, Greece, Egypt, and Sri Lanka, spreading Dharma, the teachings of Buddha.
- Asoka encourages his sons and great-grandsons to make any future conquests using Dharma, not military might. In Pillar Edict II, Asoka describes Dharma as "little evil, much good, kindness, generosity, truthfulness, and purity."

Historians believe Asoka was the first important ruler to promote Buddhism.