

ONENESS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
AND LOVE OF

Deborah
Hubbard
Christensen

1947-2009



O Thou Kind Lord! This dearly cherished maidservant was attracted to Thee, and through reflection and discernment longed to attain Thy presence and enter Thy realms. With tearful eyes she fixed her gaze on the Kingdom of Mysteries. Many a night she spent in deep communion with Thee, and many a day she lived in intimate remembrance of Thee. At every morn she was mindful of Thee, and at every eve she centered her thoughts upon Thee. Like unto a singing nightingale she chanted Thy sacred verses, and like unto a mirror she sought to reflect Thy light.

O Thou Forgiver of sins! Open Thou the way for this awakened soul to enter Thy Kingdom, and enable this bird, trained by Thy hand, to soar in the eternal rose garden. She is afire with longing to draw nigh unto Thee; enable her to attain Thy presence. She is distraught and distressed in separation from Thee; cause her to be admitted into Thy Heavenly Mansion.

O Lord! We are sinners, but Thou art the Forgiver. We are submerged in the ocean of shortcomings, but Thou art the Pardoner; the Kind. Forgive our sins and bless us with Thine abundant grace. Grant us the privilege of beholding Thy Countenance, and give us the chalice of joy and bliss. We are captives of our own transgressions, and Thou art the King of bountiful favors. We are drowned in a sea of iniquities, and Thou art the Lord of infinite mercy. Thou art the Giver, the Glorious, the Eternal, the Bounteous; and Thou art the All-Gracious, the All-Merciful, the Omnipotent, He Who is the Bestower of gifts and the Forgiver of sins. Verily, Thou art He to Whom we turn for the remission of our failings, He Who is the Lord of Hosts.

O My servants! Sorrow not if, in these days and on this earthly plane, things contrary to your wishes have been ordained and manifested by God, for days of blissful joy, of heavenly delight, are assuredly in store for you. Worlds, holy and spiritually glorious, will be unveiled to your eyes. You are destined by Him, in this world and hereafter, to partake of their benefits, to share in their joys, and to obtain a portion of their sustaining grace. To each and every one of them you will, no doubt, attain.

Bahá'u'lláh

Recited in Afrikaans



O MY FRIENDS!

Have ye forgotten that true and radiant morn, when in those hallowed and blessed surroundings ye were all gathered in My presence beneath the shade of the tree of life, which is planted in the all-glorious paradise? Awe-struck ye listened as I gave utterance to these three most holy words: O friends! Prefer not your will to Mine, never desire that which I have not desired for you, and approach Me not with lifeless hearts, defiled with worldly desires and cravings. Would ye but sanctify your souls, ye would at this present hour recall that place and those surroundings, and the truth of My utterance should be made evident unto all of you.

Bahá'u'lláh

Recited in Setswana

The nature of the soul after death can never be described, nor is it meet and permissible to reveal its whole character to the eyes of men. The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying Their revelation hath been to educate all men, that they may, at the hour of death, ascend, in the utmost purity and sanctity and with absolute detachment, to the throne of the Most High. The light which these souls radiate is responsible for the progress of the world and the advancement of its peoples. They are like unto leaven which leaveneth the world of being, and constitute the animating force through which the arts and wonders of the world are made manifest. ... The world beyond is as different from this world as this world is different from that of the child while still in the womb of its mother. When the soul attaineth the Presence of God, it will assume the form that best befitteth its immortality and is worthy of its celestial habitation.

Bahá'u'lláh

Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure. It will manifest the signs of God and His attributes, and will reveal His loving kindness and bounty.

Bahá'u'lláh

Recited in isiZulu



O SON OF MAN!

My calamity is My providence, outwardly it is fire and vengeance, but inwardly it is light and mercy. Hasten thereunto that thou mayest become an eternal light and an immortal spirit. This is My command unto thee, do thou observe it.

O SON OF THE SUPREME!

I have made death a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost thou grieve? I made the light to shed on thee its splendour. Why dost thou veil thyself therefrom?

Bahá'u'lláh

Recited in isiXhosa



This prayer was revealed to comfort us in dealing with the hardships and sorrows of this earthly life, reassure us of the kindness of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s heart, and encourage us to have hope and faith.

(No authorised translation available)

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Chanted in Persian



He is God

O peerless Lord! Cherish Thou this precious friend, and adorn his head with the diadem of bounty. Confer upon him the crown of sovereignty in the eternal world, and place upon his brow the coronet of heavenly bestowal.

He longed to behold Thee; grant him admittance into the court of Thine effulgent splendour. He yearned to gaze upon Thy countenance; vouchsafe unto him the light of heavenly reunion. He was a moth afire with longing; cause him to draw nigh unto the candle of Thy beauty. He was a nightingale consumed with yearning; cause him to be united with the rose.

Succor Thou his loved ones; grant them patience and tranquility; bestow upon them fortitude and resignation, so that, in their separation from him, they may be relieved of anguish, and that, in their bereavement and affliction, their hearts may be consoled.

Thou art the Powerful; Thou art the Mighty; Thou art the Helper; Thou art the Omnipotent. Truly, Thou hast power over all things.

- 'Abdu'l-Bahá

(Provisional translation)



O my God! O Thou forgiver of sins, bestower
of gifts, dispeller of afflictions!

Verily, I beseech thee to forgive the sins of
such as have abandoned the physical garment
and have ascended to the spiritual world.

O my Lord! Purify them from trespasses,
dispel their sorrows, and change their
darkness into light. Cause them to enter the
garden of happiness, cleanse them with the
most pure water, and grant them to behold
Thy splendors on the loftiest mount.

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá



PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

To be recited at the graveside

O my God! This is Thy handmaiden and the daughter of Thy handmaiden who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs, and set her face towards Thee, wholly detached from all except Thee. Thou art, verily, of those who show mercy the most merciful.

Deal with her, O Thou Who forgivest the sins of men and concealest their faults, as beseemeth the heaven of Thy bounty and the ocean of Thy grace. Grant her admission within the precincts of Thy transcendent mercy that was before the foundation of earth and heaven. There is no God but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous.

Let him, then, repeat six times the greeting “Alláh-u-Abhá,” and then repeat nineteen times each of the following verses:

We all, verily, worship God.

We all, verily, bow down before God.

We all, verily, are devoted unto God.

We all, verily, give praise unto God.

We all, verily, yield thanks unto God.

We all, verily, are patient in God.

Bahá'u'lláh



In conclusion a Lakota (Native American) prayer of gratitude will be chanted.

We were deeply grieved to learn of the passing of consecrated handmaiden of the Blessed Beauty Deborah Hubbard Christensen. Her long years as a pioneer to Africa, her contributions to the development of Bahá'í education and the loving succour and wise counsel she so selflessly provided to the many who turned to her leave a rich and exemplary legacy of service that will long be remembered. Kindly convey to her husband Philip, sons Matthew and Colin, daughters-in-law Emily and Kim, other family members and friends our loving sympathy and the assurance of our prayers at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of her radiant soul throughout the divine realms and for the solace of their hearts at this time of loss.

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