



A Gathering of Voices: Sacred Songs and Recitations for the World Interfaith Harmony Week

St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 7 February 2012

— HINDUISM —

The *Gayatri* mantram (*Rig Veda*, 10:16:3)

OM bhूर्bhuvāH svaH tatsaviturvareNyaM bhargo devasya dhiimahi dhiyo yonāH pracodayaat .	<i>Om! Earth, air, heaven.</i> We meditate on the adorable glory of the radiant sun; may he inspire our intelligence.
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— BUDDHISM —

The Scripture of Great Wisdom (*Prajnaparamita Sutra*, Heart Sutra)

When One with deepest wisdom of the Heart
that is beyond discriminative thought,
The Holy Lord, great Kanzeon Bosatsu,
knew that the skhandas five were - as they are - in their self-nature, void, unstained and pure.

O Shariputra, form is only pure,
pure is all form; there is, then, nothing more than this.
For what is form is pure, and what is pure is form;
the same is also true of all sensation, thought, activity and consciousness.

O Shariputra, here all things are pure,
for they are neither born nor do they wholly die;
they are not stained nor yet immaculate;
increasing not, decreasing not.

O Shariputra - in this pure there is no form - sensation - thought - activity or consciousness; no eye -
ear - nose - tongue - body - mind; - no form - no tastes - sound - colour touch or objects;
vision none - no consciousness - no knowledge and no sign of ignorance;
until we come to where old age and death have ceased - and so has all extinction of old age and
death.

For here there is no suffering, nor yet again is there accumulation,
nor again annihilation nor an Eightfold Path, no knowledge, no attainment.
In the mind of the Bosatsu who is truly one with Wisdom Great the obstacles dissolve,
* and, going on beyond this human mind, he is Nirvana.
All the Buddhas True of present, past and future they are all,
because upon Great Wisdom they rely, the perfect and most high enlightenment.

The Prajnaparamita one should know to be the Greatest Mantra of them all,
the highest and most peerless Mantra too; * allayer of all pain Great Wisdom is,
it is the very Truth, no falsehood here.
This is the Mantra of Great Wisdom, hear!
+ O Buddha, going, going, going on + beyond
And always going on beyond – always Becoming Buddha. Hail! Hail! Hail!

Shema Yisrael (Hear, O Israel)

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonoi Eloheinu, Adonoi Echod.	Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one.
Baruch sheim k'vod malchuso l'olam va-ed.	Blessed be the name of the glory of His kingdom forever and ever.
V'ahavto eis Adonoi Elohe-cha b'chol l'vav'cho u-v'chawl nafsh'cho, u-v'chol m'ode-cho. V'hayu ha-d'varim ha-eileh, asher anochi m'tsav'cho ha-yom, al l'vavecho. V'shinantam l'vane-cho, v'dibarto bom: b'shivt'cha b'veite-cha, uv'lech-t'cho va-derech, u-v'shoch-b'cho uv'kumecho. Uk'shartom l'os al yade-cho, v'ha-yu l'totafos bein eine-cho. Uch'savtom, al m'zu-zos beise-cho, u-vishare-cho.	And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates. [Deuteronomy 6:4–9]

Recitations of Genesis 1:1–8 and Amos 9:7–15.

Salve, Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve. ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae, ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte; et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.	Hail thou Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
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O lumen

O lumen Ecclesiae Doctor veritatis, Rosa patientiae, Ebur castitatis, Aquam sapientiae propinasti gratis, Praedicator gratiae, nos junge beatis.	Light of the Church, Teacher of truth, Rose of patience, Ivory of chastity, You freely offered The waters of wisdom, Preacher of grace, Unite us with the blessed.
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Attende Domine

R. Attende Domine, et miserere, quia peccavimus tibi.	R. Hearken, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against Thee.
Ad te Rex summe, omnium redemptor, oculos nostros sublevamus flentes: exaudi, Christe, supplicantium preces. R.	Crying, we raise our eyes to Thee, Sovereign King, Redeemer of all. Listen, Christ, to the pleas of the supplicant sinners. R.
Dextera Patris, lapis angularis, via salutis, ianua caelestis, ablue nostri maculas delicti. R.	Thou art at the Right Hand of God the Father, the Keystone, the Way of salvation and Gate of Heaven, cleanse the stains of our sins. R.

Rogamus, Deus, tuam maiestatem: auribus sacris gemitus exaudi: crimina nostra placidus indulge. R.	O God, we beseech Thy majesty to hear our groans; to forgive our sins. R.
Tibi fatemur crimina admissa: contrito corde pandimus occulta: tua Redemptor, pietas ignoscat. R.	We confess to Thee our consented sins; we declare our hidden sins with contrite heart; in Thy mercy, O Redeemer, forgive them. R.
Innocens captus, nec repugnans ductus, testibus falsis pro impiis damnatus: quos redemisti, tu conserva, Christe. R.	Thou wert captured, being innocent; brought about without resistance, condemned by impious men with false witnesses. O Christ keep safe those whom Thou hast redeemed. R.

Sub tuum

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genitrix. Nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus nostris, sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta	Under thy protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our needs, but from all dangers deliver us always, Virgin Glorious and Blessed
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— ISLAM —

Al-Fatiha ('The Opener'), first sura or chapter of the Qur'an

Bismillāhi r-rahmāni r-rahīm Al-hamdu li-llāhi rabbi l-‘ālamīn Ar-rahmāni r-rahīm Māliki yawmi d-dīn Iyyāka na‘budu wa iyyāka nasta‘īn Ihdinās širāṭ al-mustaqīm Širāṭ al-ladīna an‘amta ‘alayhim ḡayril maḡdūbi ‘alayhim walā d-ḡallīn.	In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy! Praise belongs to God, Lord of the Worlds, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy, Master of the Day of Judgement. It is You we worship; it is You we ask for help. Guide us to the straight path: the path of those You have blessed, those who incur no anger and who have not gone astray.
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From Sura 25, 'The Criterion' (al-Furqan)

25:61 Exalted is He who put constellations in the heavens, a radiant light, and an illuminating moon—(62) it is He who made the night and day follow each other— so anyone who wishes may be mindful or show gratitude. (63) The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when the foolish address them, reply, 'Peace'; (64) those who spend the night bowed down or standing, worshipping their Lord, (65) who plead, 'Our Lord, turn away from us the suffering of Hell, for it is a dreadful torment to suffer! (66) It is an evil home, a foul resting place!' (67) They are those who are neither wasteful nor niggardly when they spend, but keep to a just balance; (68) those who never invoke any other deity beside God, nor take a life, which God has made sacred, except in the pursuit of justice, nor commit adultery. (Whoever does these things will face the penalties: (69) their torment will be doubled on the Day of Resurrection, and they will remain in torment,

disgraced, (70) except those who repent, believe, and do good deeds: God will change the evil deeds of such people into good ones. He is most forgiving, most merciful. (71) People who repent and do good deeds truly return to God.) (72) [The servants of the Lord of Mercy are] those who do not give false testimony, and who, when they see some frivolity, pass by with dignity; (73) who, when reminded of their Lord's signs, do not turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to them; (74) those who pray, 'Our Lord, give us joy in our spouses and offspring. Make us good examples to those who are aware of You'. (75) These servants will be rewarded with the highest place in Paradise for their steadfastness. There they will be met with greetings and peace. (76) There they will stay- a happy home and resting place! (77) [Prophet, tell the disbelievers], 'What are you to my Lord without your supplication? But since you have written off the truth as lies, the inevitable will happen.'

Benedictions upon the Prophet