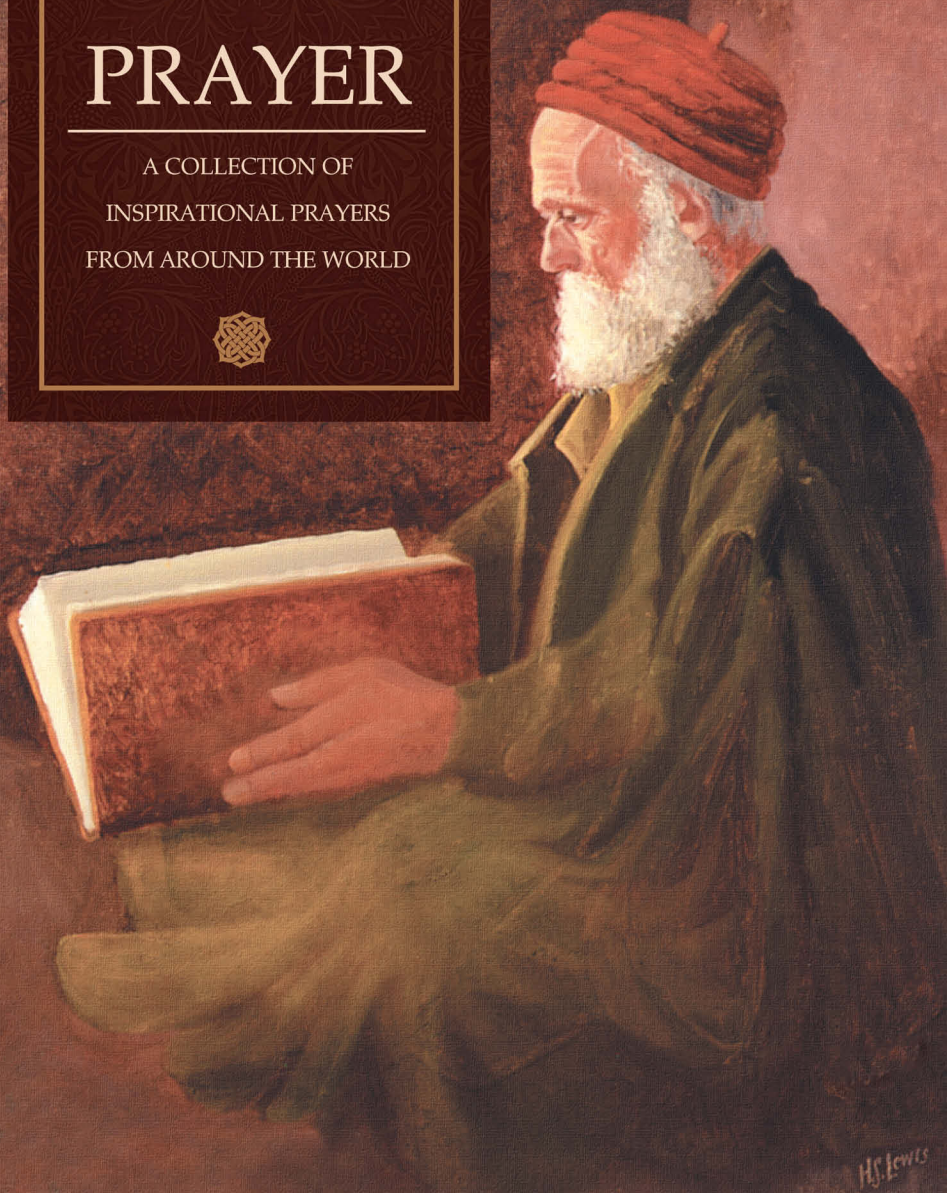


MYSTICS AT PRAYER

A COLLECTION OF
INSPIRATIONAL PRAYERS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD



MYSTICS AT PRAYER

▽ ▽ ▽

Mystics at Prayer



Compiled by
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With Introduction by
H. Spencer Lewis

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COMPILER'S DEDICATION

*I dedicate this book with the deepest
and most respectful esteem*

to

*(Mrs.) Gladys R. Lewis,
wife of the Emperor of*

A M O R C



P R E F A C E

This unique book contains a carefully selected group of prayers found in the personal and private writings of many well-known characters and in the liturgy of various religious movements.

They have been selected by Mr. Cihlar after a careful study of the prayers of all peoples and all nations in relation to the processes of mystical attainment and spiritual development.

Mr. Cihlar is a Rosicrucian, a high officer in this time-honored and beautiful body of Mystics, adhering to and promulgating the divine principles of earthly life.

From his sanctum in Vienna, Austria, his manuscript was sent to America that it might be published by the Western World branch of the Rosicrucian Order and given to the people of this new world with the hope that it may lead to a greater desire to pray and a greater efficiency in the manner of praying.

We trust that this hope will be fulfilled by the widespread distribution of this book and the daily reference to the prayers contained in it.

—The Publishers

INTRODUCTION

How To Pray

An examination of the prayers which appear on the following pages reveals the fact that the great mystics of all ages understood the real processes of prayer and knew how to pray.

Christians have the beautiful example of the prayer given to them by Jesus, the Christ, as a standard; and it is a most beautiful standard. But, long before the Christian era, the Mystics, the Avatars, and those through whom the Light of God shone among men, knew by divine inspiration how to pray. Examples of their prayers contained in these pages prove this fact.

The Mystic and those who were touched with the Light of Cosmic Consciousness had a very definite understanding of the processes of prayer. In the Western World today millions of persons have digressed very greatly from these processes, and, making their prayers long and filled with personal petitions, are often disappointed with the seeming lack of efficacy in their prayers or the inefficacy of praying. It may be permissible, therefore, briefly to outline or review true processes of prayer as understood by the Mystics.

According to the mystical viewpoint, praying to God is based upon the conviction that God is omnipotent in power, present everywhere, and willing to listen to our sincere petitions. This is all that we should have in mind when praying.

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The average person in praying, however, has in mind some assumptions which mislead him in wording his prayers, and in approaching the very attitude of prayer. He assumes that God is not only omnipotent in power, omnipresent, and merciful, but that with all of His power, with all of His intelligence, with all of His mastership and control throughout the world, and with all His attunement with the beings which He created, *He is, nevertheless, ignorant of our wants and needs, and completely unacquainted with what we require in life in order to live abundantly and secure our everyday necessities.* Very often, the prayerful petitioner also assumes that God has given no thought to the outcome of certain contests in life or struggles between various factions of human beings, and is incapable of justly deciding such contests or awarding the victory to the right side. These false assumptions are responsible for the mistakes that are made in prayer and for the failure of prayers to be highly efficacious.

To go into prayer with the idea or belief that God does not know what we need or even what we want, or what is best for us, and that we must advise Him, argue with Him, stress our viewpoint and convince Him, *or at least urge Him,* to adopt our ideas and decisions and grant what we plead for, is to make the most serious mistake in the process of praying.

In the first place, the process of prayer is a transcendent method of *communion with God.* It is the most intimate, personal contact that human beings can make with their Father, the Creator of all beings. This sublime period of communion should be approached with clean thoughts, but most of all with a clear understanding of our privileges and

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a total absence of any feeling that we have any *right* to petition God to grant our wishes.

The Mystics know, also, that true prayer is based upon a cosmic and spiritual law. That law is this: "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." The ancient mystical injunction was that you must *ask* in order to receive, that you must proffer your hand in order to have the token given unto you, that you must *express* your desire before it will be answered. In all mystical processes, the expression of a sincere wish or desire opens wide the doorway to the reception of spiritual blessings. The asking in sincerity and the reverential expression of such wishes attunes the person with the one who has the power to give and, unless there is a meeting of the minds and a meeting of the consciousness of both persons, there can neither be attunement nor the passing from one to the other of the spiritual things desired.

To the Mystic, therefore, prayer is a meeting of the minds. It is not an occasion for personal petitioning, but for *spiritual communion*. It is a time when the soul within us and the deepest and most inner parts of our being sacredly, sincerely, and quietly speak to God and express the deepest wishes of our hearts and minds. The belief, therefore, that our human conception of our needs must be outlined in minute detail and expressed in great elaboration is also a misconception, since the thoughts moving us to prayer are easily transmitted to the divine consciousness during this communion, and the lips need only speak the fewest words of appreciation and thankfulness.

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Prayers should not consist of a categorical representation of details or a long list of the things that we feel we want, but merely an expression of a desire for divine blessings. Have we any right to come before God in this privileged period of communion and demand, or even plead, that long life be given to us because we desire it and have come to the conclusion that it is the thing we should have? Is that not an indication that we have concluded that God may not have thought about our lives or may have ordained otherwise, or differently, and that we hope to change His mind or set aside His wise decrees because of our petition? Have we any right to come before the Creator of all, and say that we *want* this, that, or the other thing in a manner which intimates that we have outlined and decided upon such things as being *our judgment* of what is best for us?

If we lived in a great kingdom under a most just and merciful king, and were enjoying every benediction and blessing that the king could bestow upon the multitudes who lived under him, and we were notified that we had the *extraordinary privilege* of coming before this king in personal communion, and during this communion we might express our great desires in some form of prayerful petition, would we not hesitate for a long time in formulating our desires and arranging the expressions we would use? Undoubtedly, when the moment came to face the king and be permitted to open our lips and speak any words at all, we would first utter some words of profound thankfulness for the blessings we had enjoyed, and humbly add that *if it pleased the king*, we would be happy to continue enjoying the same blessings or possibly a few more. Not one of us would think of attempting to petition this king to grant us a long list of mate-

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rial things, nor ask him to give us victory over others, or to make any exception in the universal standard of living, that we might rise above all our fellowmen in the kingdom; nor would we ask for many of the things that were most desired. We would be so happy in the fact that the king had granted us the privilege of communion that we would be moved to an attitude of thankfulness and an expression of appreciation for what we had, rather than entering into a demand for many other things.

How many go into prayer or come before the consciousness of God in Holy Communion in this attitude? How many cleanse their hands of debt by first thanking God for each individual blessing throughout the day? How many approach God in prayer in an attitude of profound appreciation for the very life and consciousness which animates their beings? After all, is not the gift of life the greatest blessing that God can give, and if we have it, have we not that which is greater than anything else we may desire? To ask for other things than life or to petition for anything other than the consciousness of God in our beings is to lift lesser things and insignificant things above the greatest.

From the mystical point of view, our prayers should be expressions of desires for a continuation of the benedictions God has already granted, and which He, in His supreme wisdom, has seen fit to bestow upon us. Ever uppermost in our minds should be the thought that, "Thy will, not mine be done." The simple expression of, "May it please the Father of us all that health may return to my body," is a more concise, honest, and worthy petition than one that demands or suggests that God change the law now in operation in our bodies, and set aside certain specific conditions and estab-

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lish others, simply because this is the conclusion that we have reached, and is our greatest desire at the moment. A prayer for victory should not be asked by the vainglorious one who has reached the conclusion that he, above all others, should be the victorious one in a contest, and that God has made no decision and is waiting for man to present his conclusion.

By examining the prayers we will find that the Mystics always assumed that whatever might be their lot in life, and however the state of their health or the condition of the circumstances surrounding them, be they ill or fortunate, all things proceeded from God and were ordained by Him and, therefore, were just and in accordance with some law or some principle that was merciful and necessary to human experience. The fact that man in his finite and undeveloped understanding could not comprehend the reason for these experiences, or believe them to be wrong, unnecessary, or undesirable, does not warrant man in coming before God in the Holy Communion of prayer with the conclusion that his finite and undeveloped understanding is correct, and that God is in error or in ignorance of the conditions and needs to be advised and petitioned to make certain changes or to recall or undo His decrees.

As we shall see in the following pages, the Mystics approached God with the attitude that whatever was their lot in life would be gladly and silently accepted, and all pains and suffering endured, *if it be the will of God*. We find in many of these prayers the thought expressed that even the sufferings and trials, and the tribulations in life, were appreciated since they were unquestionably the result of God's

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plan being worked out in the individual for some ultimate purpose unquestionably good and profitable.

The fact that we are not surrounded by any restrictions in regard to prayer and that God has given us the consciousness and ability, as well as the privilege, of approaching Him in Holy Communion and of attuning ourselves with Him at any hour of the day or any moment in our lives, is in itself a divine gift or concession that the Mystics valued above all things. Therefore, prayer was approached with thankfulness in every sense, and the first expression uttered by the lips was words of appreciation and thanks.

Learn *how to pray*, and make prayer the real pleasure of your life, for it brings you in closer contact with the great Ruler of the universe than you can ever approach Him while living on this earthly plane of existence. Make your Holy Communions frequent. Thank God for the breath of life and the return of consciousness when you arise in the morning. Silently thank Him for every morsel of food at mealtime. Express your appreciation for every pleasure, every worldly gift, every moment of happiness, and every rich reward of your efforts or the efforts of others. At the close of day, enter into Holy Communion of prayer and express your faith and trust in His divine guidance of your soul and consciousness throughout the night, and again be thankful for the day and all the opportunities it contained to carry out your desires and ambitions, and to enjoy the divine blessings. Make prayer the transcendental and sublime pleasure of your inner self—more important, more enjoyable, more uplifting and benefiting to your entire being than any other of your earthly experiences.

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You will find many of the prayers on the following pages useful either in their precise wording, or as a guide and help in learning how to express the thoughts of your soul. The more you pray in the proper attitude, the more spiritually attuned you will become, and the richer will be the influx of the blessings from the Cosmic through the great love and mercy of God.

—H. Spencer Lewis.

The Temple of Alden,
Rosicrucian Park,
San Jose, California.

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The Book of the Dead

O THOTH, let, I pray, THY face be towards me. Make THOU my word to be Maat* against my enemies, as THOU didst make the word of Osiris to be Maat against his enemies.

Δ Δ Δ

A Babylonian Prayer

O LORD, do not cast THY servant off!
In the deep watery morass he lies—take hold of his hand!
The sin that I have committed, change to grace!
The transgressions that I have committed, let the wind carry off!

Δ Δ Δ

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in THY sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Δ Δ Δ

Pericles

Grant that no word may fall from me against my will unfit for the present need.

Δ Δ Δ

*Maat is the Egyptian word for truth.

Syrian Clementine Liturgy

O GOD, WHO art the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings and the bestower of affection, Who sendest peace to those that receive it. Open to us the sea of THY love and water us with the plenteous streams from the riches of THY grace. Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace. Enkindle in us the fire of THY love; sow in us THY fear; strengthen our weakness by THY power; and bind us closely to THEE and to each in one firm bond of unity.

Δ Δ Δ

Emperor Julian

Point me the way that leadeth upward to THEE. For yonder regions where THOU dwellest are incomparably beautiful, if I may divine their beauty that is at THY side from the pleasantness of the Path which I have already traveled.

Δ Δ Δ

Jacobite Liturgy

O GOD, the FATHER, ORIGIN of DIVINITY, GOOD beyond all that is good, FAIR beyond all that is fair, in WHOM is calmness, peace and concord; bring us all back into an unity of love, which may bear some likeness to THY sublime nature.

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Prayer of Manasses

O LORD ALMIGHTY, which art in heaven,
THOU GOD of our fathers,
Of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob
And of their righteous seed;
THOU who hast made the heaven and the earth,
With all the array thereof,
Who hast bound the sea by the word of THY
command;
Who hast shut up the Deep, and sealed it
With THY terrible and glorious Name.
Infinite and unsearchable in THY merciful
promise.

For THOU art the LORD MOST HIGH, of great
compassion, long-suffering and abundant in
mercy, and repentest THEE for the evils of men.

THOU, O LORD, according to THY great good-
ness hast promised repentance and forgiveness to
them that have sinned against THEE, and in the
multitude of THY mercies hast appointed repen-
tance unto sinners, that they may be saved.

Δ Δ Δ

St. John Chrysostom

Thanks be to THEE, O GOD, for everything.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Zoroaster

With bended knees, with hand outstretched, I
pray to THEE, my LORD,
O INVISIBLE BENEVOLENT SPIRIT!
Vouchsafe to me in this hour of joy,
All righteousness of action, all wisdom of the
good mind,
That I may thereby bring joy to the Soul of
Creation.

Δ Δ Δ

Zoroaster

All that I ought to have thought and have not
thought;
All that I ought to have said and have not said;
All that I ought to have done and have not
done;
All that I ought not to have thought and yet
have thought;
All that I ought not to have spoken and yet
have spoken;
All that I ought not to have done and yet have
done;
For thoughts, words and works, pray I for for-
giveness, and repent of with penance.

Δ Δ Δ

Socrates

Grant me to be beautiful within, and all I have
of outward things to be at peace with those within.

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Jesus Christ

Our FATHER, WHO art in heaven, hallowed be THY name, THY kingdom come, THY will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our traspases as we ought to forgive those that trespass against us. Lead us when in temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Δ Δ Δ

Liturgy of the Greek Church

That which we know not, do THOU reveal; that which is wanting in us do THOU fill up; in that which we know, do THOU strengthen us.

Δ Δ Δ

Liturgy of St. Mark

We give THEE thanks—yea, more than thanks—O LORD our GOD, for all THY goodness at all times and in all places.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Ephrem the Syrian

THOU hast quieted those which were in confusion. Praise to THY calmness, praise to THY reconciliation, O LORD GOD.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Basil

Steer THOU the vessel of our life towards THYSELF, THOU tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go.

Δ Δ Δ

St. John Chrysostom

Into THY guidance and care, O LORD, THOU LOVER of Man, we entrust all our life and hope.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Patrick

May the Strength of GOD pilot us. May the Power of GOD preserve us. May the Wisdom of GOD instruct us. May the Way of GOD direct us.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Blasius

May God, the uncreated ABYSS, vouchsafe to call unto HIMSELF our Spirit, the created abyss, and make it one with HIM, that our spirit, plunged in the deep sea of the GODHEAD, may happily lose itself in the Spirit of GOD.

Δ Δ Δ

Synesius

O UNITY, THEE I sing by voices or by silence; for both are alike significant to THEE.

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Synesius

I hymn THEE, O BLESSED ONE, by means of voice, and I hymn THEE, O BLESSED ONE, by means of silence; for THOU perceivest as much from silence spiritual as from voice.

Δ Δ Δ

Synesius

Behold THY suppliant attempting to mount; enlighten me, enable my wings, relax my fetters. May I escape from the body to THY bosom whence flows the Soul's source. Restore me to the Spring whence I was poured forth. Grant that beneath the ordering of my SIRE, I may sing in union with the ROYAL CHOIR. Let me mingle with the Light, and never more sink to earth.

Δ Δ Δ

Sarum Breviary

ALMIGHTY GOD, we invoke THEE, the fountain of everlasting Light, and entreat THEE to send forth THY truth into our hearts, and to pour upon us the glory of THY Brightness.

Δ Δ Δ

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Gelasian Sacramentary

O GOD of unchangeable Power, let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, that those which had grown old are being made new and that all things are returning to perfection.

Δ Δ Δ

Leonine Sacramentary

Grant us, O LORD, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Augustine

Come LORD and work. Arouse us and incite. Kindle us, sweep us onwards. Be fragrant as flowers, sweet as honey. Teach us to love and to run.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Augustine

Grant us to know THEE and love THEE and rejoice in THEE. And if we cannot do these perfectly in this life, let us at least advance to higher degrees every day till we can come to do them to perfection.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Augustine

LORD, teach me to know THEE, and to know myself.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Augustine

We seek THY face, turn THY face unto us, and show us THY glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Augustine

LORD, when I look upon mine own life it seems THOU hast led me so carefully, so tenderly, THOU canst have attended to none else; but when I see how wonderfully THOU hast led the world and art leading it, I am amazed that THOU hast had time to attend to such as I.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Augustine

Take THOU possession of us. We give our whole selves to THEE, make known to us what THOU requirest of us, and we will accomplish it.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Augustine

O GOD, where was I wandering to seek THEE?
O most infinite Beauty, I sought THEE without,
and THOU wast in the midst of my heart.

Δ Δ Δ

Coptic Apocrypha

Glory be to THEE, PROPITIATOR.
Glory be to THEE, UNDYING ONE.
Glory be to THEE, KING of PEACE.
Glory be to THEE, WHO was not born.
Glory be to THEE, the INCORRUPTIBLE.
Glory be to THEE, KING of GLORY.
Glory be to THEE, the HEAD of the UNIVERSE.
Glory be to THEE, HOLY and PERFECT ONE.
Glory be to THEE, THOU TREASURY of
GLORY.
Glory be to THEE, THOU true Light.
Glory be to THEE, DELIVERER of the
UNIVERSE.
Glory be to THEE, THOU WHO art indeed the
GOOD ONE.
Glory be to THEE, ALPHA of the UNIVERSE.
Glory be to THEE, LIFE of the UNIVERSE.
O SWEET NAME.
O THOU, WHO art at the head of the Universe.
O THOU Beginning and End of everything
Amen.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Anselm

O THOU plenteous Source of every good and perfect gift, shed abroad the cheering light of THY sevenfold grace over our hearts.

Δ Δ Δ

Collect from the 6th Century

O GOD who hast folded back the mantle of the night to clothe us in the glory of the day, chase from our hearts all gloomy thoughts, and make us glad with the brightness of hope that we may effectively aspire to unknown virtues.

Δ Δ Δ

Alcuin

O ETERNAL LIGHT, shine into our hearts. O ETERNAL GOODNESS, deliver us from evil. O ETERNAL POWER, be THOU our support. ETERNAL WISDOM, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. ETERNAL PITY, have mercy upon us.

Δ Δ Δ

Johannes Scotus Erigena

O THOU, WHO art the everlasting essence of things beyond space and time and yet within them; THOU WHO transcendest yet pervadest all things; manifest THYSELF to us, feeling after THEE, seeking THEE in the shades of ignorance, yet seeking nothing beside THEE.

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St. Anselm

Pierce with the arrows of THY love the secret chambers of the inner man. Let the entrance of THY healthful flames set the sluggish heart alight; and the burning fire of THY sacred inspiration enlighten it.

△ △ △

St. Hildegard

OMNIPOTENT FATHER, out of THEE flows a fountain in fiery heat; lead THY sons by a favourable wind through the mystic waters.

△ △ △

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

I love THEE because I love; I love that I may love.

△ △ △

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

In what blaze of Glory dost THOU rise, O SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, from the heart of the earth, after THY setting!

In what resplendent Vesture, O KING of GLORY, dost THOU enter again the highest heaven!

At the sight of all these marvels, how can I do otherwise than cry: "All my bones shall say, 'LORD, who is like unto THEE?'"

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

If THOU, LORD, art so good to those who seek,
what shall THY goodness be to those who find?

Δ Δ Δ

St. Thomas Aquinas

Give me, O LORD, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon me also, O LORD, my GOD, understanding to know THEE, diligence to seek THEE, wisdom to find THEE, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace THEE.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Thomas Aquinas

Grant me fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfill all that is well-pleasing unto THEE.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Richard

May we know THEE more clearly, love THEE more dearly, and follow THEE more nearly.

Δ Δ Δ

Dame Gertrude More

O my GOD, let me walk in the way of love which knoweth not how to seek self in anything whatsoever. Let this love wholly possess my soul and heart, which, I beseech THEE may live and move only in, and out of, a pure and sincere love to THEE. Let me love THEE for THYSELF, and nothing else but in THEE and for THEE. Let me love nothing instead of THEE; for to give all for love is a most sweet bargain.

Δ Δ Δ

Ali Bin Uthman

THY will be done, O my LORD and MASTER.
O THOU who art my Spirit's treasure MEANING.
O ESSENCE of my being, O GOAL of my desire,
O my SPEECH and HINTS and my GESTURES.
O all of my all, O my HEARING and my SIGHT.
O my WHOLE and my ELEMENT and my PARTICLES.

Δ Δ Δ

Mozarabic Liturgy

Do THOU meet us while we walk in the Way and long to reach the Country; so that following THY light we may keep the Way of righteousness and never wander away into the darkness of this world's night.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Give me to recognize in other men, Lord God,
the radiance of your own face. The irresistible
light of your eyes, shining in the depths of things,
has already driven me into undertaking the work I
had to do and facing the difficulties I had to over-
come: grant me now to see you also and above all
in the most inward, most perfect, most remote lev-
els of the souls of my brother-men.

Δ Δ Δ

Jalal-ud-din-Rumi

O GOD, THY grace is the proper object of
our desire;
To couple others with THEE is not proper.
Nothing is bitterer than severance from THEE,
Without THY shelter there is naught but
perplexity.
Our worldly goods rob us of our heavenly goods,
Our body rends the garment of our soul.
Our hands, as it were, prey on our feet;
Without reliance on THEE how can we live?
And if the soul escapes these great perils,
It is made captive as a victim of misfortunes and
fears
Inasmuch as when the soul lacks union with the
Beloved,
It abides for ever blind and darkened by itself.

Δ Δ Δ

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Dante Alighieri

Give us this day the daily manna, without which through this rough desert he backward goes who toils most to go on.

Δ Δ Δ

Sufi Invocation

Praise be to THEE, O HIDDEN ONE and MANIFESTED ONE. Praise be to THY Glory, to THY Might, to THY Power, and to THY Great Skill.

O ALLAH, to THEE all greatness belongs. O THOU who possesseth the Power and Beauty and Perfection. THOU art the Spirit of All.

Praise to THEE, O SOVEREIGN of all Monarchs; to THEE, O MASTER of all affairs; to THEE, O CONTROLLER of all things; to THEE, RULER of all BEINGS.

THOU art free from death, free from birth and free from all limitations. O THOU ETERNAL ONE, THOU art free from all conditions, pure from all things. O ALLAH, THOU art the GOD of Souls on earth; THOU art the LORD of Hosts in the Heavens.

Δ Δ Δ

Johannes Tauler

We honour and glorify THY unspeakable mystery with holy reverence and silence.

Δ Δ Δ

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Johannes Tauler

As the sun-flower ever turning
To the mighty sun,
With the faithfulness of fealty
Following only one—
So make me, LORD, to THEE.

Δ Δ Δ

Jan van Ruysbroeck

O LORD, I gasp in my desire for THEE, yet
can I not consume THEE. The more I eat—the
fiercer is my hunger; the more I drink—the greater
is my thirst. I follow after that which flieth from
me, and as I follow, my desire groweth greater.

Δ Δ Δ

Jan van Ruysbroeck

O LORD, THOU desirest my spirit in the in-
ward parts, that I may see THEE as THOU seest
me, and love THEE as THOU lovest me.

Δ Δ Δ

Angela of Foligno

O SUPREME GOOD, THOU hast designed to
make us know that THOU art Love, and makest us
in love with that love; wherefore they who come
before THY face shall be rewarded according unto
their love, and there is nothing which leadeth the
contemplative unto contemplation saving true love
alone.

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Heinrich Suso

THOU hast granted my heart's desire—
Most blest of the blessed is he
Who findeth no rest and no sweetness
Till he rests, O LORD, in THEE.

Δ Δ Δ

Heinrich Suso

It is meet that I should be enamoured of THEE,
and whatever I shall know to be THY dearest will
that I will always do.

Δ Δ Δ

Heinrich Suso

Gentle LORD, cause some sweet fruit of good
instruction to issue forth from our sharp thorns of
sufferings, that we may suffer more patiently, and
be better able to offer up our sufferings to THY
praise and glory.

Δ Δ Δ

Andrewes

Unto all men everywhere give THY grace and
THY blessing.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Catherine of Siena

Punish me for my sins in this finite Life.

St. Catherine of Siena

O LORD, I pray for all those whom THOU hast given me, whom I love with a special love and whom THOU hast made one thing with me. For they are my consolation and for THY sake I desire to see them running in the sweet and narrow way dead to self and pure from all judgment and murmuring against their neighbour. May they all attain to THEE, O ETERNAL FATHER, to THEE who art their final end.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Bernardino

O GOD, acknowledge what is THINE in us, and take away from us all that is not THINE, for THY honour and glory.

Δ Δ Δ

Lady Julian of Norwich

GOD, of THY Goodness, give me THYSELF, for THOU art enough to me, and may I nothing ask that is less, that may be full worship to THEE; and if I ask anything that is less, ever me wanteth,—but only in THEE I have all.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Thomas a Kempis

Praised be THY name, not mine; magnified be THY work, not mine; blessed be THY Holy Name, but to me let no part of man's praise be given.

△ △ △

Thomas a Kempis

Grant me, O LORD, heavenly wisdom, that I may learn above all things to seek and to find THEE; above all things to relish and to love THEE; and to think of all other things as being what indeed they are, at the disposal of THY wisdom.

△ △ △

Thomas a Kempis

O LORD, THOU knowest what is the better Way, let this or that be done, as THOU shalt please. Give what THOU wilt, and how much THOU wilt, and when THOU wilt. Deal with me as THOU knowest, and as best pleaseth THEE, and is most for THY honour. Set me where THOU wilt, and deal with me in all things just as THOU wilt. I am in THY hand; turn me round and turn me back again, even as a wheel. Behold I am THY servant, prepared for all things; for I desire not to live unto myself, but unto THEE; and oh that I could do it worthy and perfectly.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Thomas a Kempis

O LORD, if only my will may remain right and firm towards THEE, do with me whatsoever it shall please THEE. For it cannot be anything but good whatsoever THOU shalt do with me.

If THOU willest me to be in darkness, be THOU blessed; and if THOU willest me to be in light be THOU again blessed.

If THOU vouchsafe to comfort me, be THOU blessed; and if THOU willest me to be afflicted, be THOU ever equally blessed.

Δ Δ Δ

Girolamo Savonarola

LORD, we pray not for tranquillity, nor that our tribulations may cease; we pray for THY Spirit and THY love that THOU grant us strength and grace to overcome adversity.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Ignatius Loyola

Teach us, good LORD, to serve THEE as THOU deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do THY will.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

The Friend of God

O LORD, I wish for the love of THEE to keep from all sin today. Help me this day to do all I do to THY glory and according to THY dear will, whether my nature likes it or not.

Δ Δ Δ

Nicholas of Cusa

Restless is my heart, O LORD, because THY love hath inflamed it with such a desire that it cannot rest but in THEE alone.

Δ Δ Δ

Desiderius Erasmus

Vouchsafe to bestow upon us some portion of THY heavenly Bread, day by day, that the hunger and thirst for earthly things may diminish in us continually.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Teresa

Govern all by THY wisdom, O LORD, so that my soul may always be serving THEE as THOU dost will and not as I may choose. Let me die to myself, so that I may serve THEE; let me live to THEE, who in THYSELF art the true life.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Teresa

Do not punish me by granting that which I wish or ask, if it offend THY love which would always live in me.

Δ Δ Δ

St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O LORD, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am, all that I have, THOU hast given me, and I give it back again to THEE to be disposed of according to THY good pleasure. Give me only THY love and THY grace; with THEE I am rich enough, nor do I ask for aught besides.

Δ Δ Δ

St. John of the Cross

O sweetest Love of GOD, too little known; he who has found THEE is at rest.

Everywhere with THEE, O my GOD. O my love, all for THEE, nothing for me.

O my GOD, how sweet to me THY presence, Who art the SOVEREIGN GOOD. O LORD, I beseech THEE, leave me not for a moment, because I know not the value of my soul.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Francis of Sales

O GOD, how admirable is that which we see;
but O GOD, how much more so is that which we
cannot see.

Δ Δ Δ

St. John of the Cross

GOD of my life! nothing can make me glad,
For all my gladness springs from sight of THEE,
And faileth me because I have THEE not.
If 'tis THY will, my GOD, I live forlorn,
I'll take my longings even for my comfort
While dwelling in this world.
When shall there dawn that most delicious day,
When, O my Glory, I may joy in THEE
Delivered from this body's heavy load?
Yet if my life can bring increase of glory
To THINE ETERNAL BEING,
In truth I do not wish that it should end.

Δ Δ Δ

Book of Christian Prayers

O Light which does lighten every man that
cometh into the world, without whom all is most
dark darkness, by whom all things are most
splendent; Lighten our minds, that we may only
see those things that please THEE and may be
blinded to all other things.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Benjamin Whichcote

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, naturalize us to Heaven and reconcile us to all the things of that high estate, that so we may not drudge in the world, nor act in a slavish spirit in ways of Religion, but that we may serve THEE with ingenuity of mind and with freedom of spirit, as those that are set at liberty.

Δ Δ Δ

John Norden

We are forced, O FATHER, to seek THEE daily, and THOU offerest THYSELF daily to be found; whensoever we seek THEE we find THEE, in the house, in the fields, in the Temple, and in the highway.

Δ Δ Δ

Sir Thomas Browne

Defend me, O GOD, from myself.

Δ Δ Δ

Jacob Boehme

In THEE would we lose ourselves utterly; do in us what THOU wilt.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Jacob Boehme

O THOU great incomprehensible GOD. Who fillest all, be THOU indeed my heaven. Let my spirit be indeed the music and the joy of THY spirit. Do THOU make music in me and may I make harmony in the Divine Kingdom of THY joy, in the great love of GOD, in the wonders of THY glory and splendour, in the company of THY holy angelic harmonies.

Δ Δ Δ

Jeremy Taylor

Guide me, O LORD, in all the changes and varieties of the world; that in all things that shall happen, I may have an evenness and tranquillity of spirit; that my soul may be wholly resigned to THY divinest will and pleasure, never murmuring at THY gentle chastisements and fatherly correction.

Δ Δ Δ

Jeremy Taylor

THOU, O LORD, art our Defender, THOU art our Worship, and the Lifter-up of our heads.

Δ Δ Δ

Blaise Pascal

LORD, I give THEE all.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Richard Baxter

O THOU Spirit of Life, breathe upon us THY
graces in us, take us by the hand and lift us from
earth.

Δ Δ Δ

Nathanael Culverwel

O my GOD, I'll bless THEE for those eternal
treasures that are in THY self, though I should
never taste of them.

Δ Δ Δ

Thomas Elwood

O that mine eyes might closed be
To what concerns me not to see;
That deafness might possess mine ear
To what concerns me not to hear;
That truth my tongue might always tie
From ever speaking foolishly;
That no vain thing might ever rest,
Or be conceived within my breast;
That by each deed and word and thought
Glory may to God be brought!
But what are wishes? LORD, mine eyes
On THEE is fixed, to THEE I cry;
Wash, LORD, and purify my heart,
And make it clean in every part.
And when 'tis clean, LORD, keep it, too,
For that is more than I can do.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Thomas Traherne

O give me grace to see THY face and be a constant mirror of ETERNITY.

△ △ △

Madame Guyon

THY creatures wrong THEE, O THOU
SOV'REIGN GOOD.
THOU art not lov'd because not understood.

△ △ △

Miguel de Molinos

Give me leave, O LORD, to lament our blindness and ingratitude. We all live deceived, seeking the foolish world, and forsaking THEE Who art our GOD. We forsake THEE, the fountain of Living Waters, for the foul mire of the world.

△ △ △

John Wesley

O LORD, let us not live to be useless.

△ △ △

François de Salignac Fenelon

All we ask is to die rather than live unfaithful to THEE. Give us not life, if we shall love it too well.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

François de Salignac Fenelon

Give to us, THY children, that which we ourselves know not to ask. We would have no other desire than to accomplish THY will. Teach us to pray, pray THOU in us.

△ △ △

François de Salignac Fenelon

O my GOD, preserve me from the fatal slavery that men madly call liberty. With THEE alone is freedom. It is THY truth that makes us free. To serve THEE is true dominion.

△ △ △

François de Salignac Fenelon

LORD, I know not what I ought to ask of THEE; THOU only knowest what I need; THOU lovest me better than I know how to love myself. O FATHER, give to THY child that which he himself knows not how to ask.

△ △ △

François de Salignac Fenelon

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant me THY grace to be faithful in action, and not anxious about success. My only concern is to do THY will, and to lose myself in THEE when engaged in duty. It is for THEE to give my weak efforts such fruits as THOU seest fit, none, if such be THY pleasure.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Brother Lawrence

O LORD, the sense of THY love well-nigh overwhelms me. If it be THY will, bestow these many tokens of THY loving kindness on those who know THEE not, to draw them to THY service.

Δ Δ Δ

Brother Lawrence

O Loving-Kindness so old and still so new, I have been too late in loving THEE.

O LORD, enlarge the chambers of my heart that I may find room for THY love.

Sustain me by THY Power, lest the fire of THY love consume me.

Δ Δ Δ

John Henry Newman

I am born to serve THEE, to be THINE, to be THY instrument. Let me be THY blind instrument. I ask not to see, ask not to know; I ask simply to be used.

Δ Δ Δ

Gerhard Tersteegen

Draw near to my heart and inflame it. Touch my uncircumcised lips with a burning coal from THINE altar, that I may not speak of THINE ardent love in a cold or feeble manner.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Let THY love so warm our souls, O LORD, that we may gladly surrender ourselves with all we are and have unto THEE. Let THY love fall as fire from heaven upon the altar of our hearts, and teach us to guard it heedfully by continual devotion and quietness of mind.

△ △ △

Benjamin Jenks

O LORD, renew our souls and draw our hearts unto THYSELF, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight, and give us such a mighty love for THEE as may sweeten all our obedience. O! let us not serve THEE with the spirit of bondage as slaves, but with the cheerfulness and gladness of children, delighting ourselves in THEE and rejoicing in THY work.

△ △ △

Blaise Palma

O ADMIRABLE WISDOM, that circlest all eternity, receivest into THYSELF all immensity, and drawest to THYSELF all infinity; from the inexhaustible fountain of THY light, shed some ray into my soul that I may more and more love whatever tends to THY glory and honour.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Melchior Ritter

O GOD, in THEE alone can our wearied souls have full satisfaction and rest, and in THY love is the highest joy. LORD, if we have THEE, we have enough.

Δ Δ Δ

William Blake

Pour upon us THY Spirit of meekness and love. Annihilate selfhood in us. Be THOU all our life.

Δ Δ Δ

Collect from the 18th Century

Grant us grace to rest from all sinful deeds and thoughts, to surrender ourselves wholly unto THEE, and keep our souls still before THEE like a still lake, so that the beams of THY grace may be mirrored therein, and may kindle in our hearts the glow of faith and love and prayer.

Δ Δ Δ

John Greenleaf Whittier

Dear GOD and FATHER of us all, forgive our faith in cruel lies; forgive the blindness that denies; forgive THY creature when he takes, for the all-perfect Love THOU art, some grim creation of his heart.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

James Martineau

O GOD, Who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that, whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go on in the road which THOU hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but daily seeking our way by THY light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey, to THEE the Fountain of Joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along.

△ △ △

Oliver Wendell Holmes

LORD, what am I, that with unceasing care
THOU didst seek after me?

△ △ △

Rabindranath Tagore

If THOU speakest not, I will fill my heart with
THY silence and endure it. I will keep still and
wait like the night with starry vigil and its head
bent low with patience. The morning will surely
come, the darkness will vanish, and THY voice
pour down in golden streams, breaking through
the sky.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Charles Kingsley

Exalt us with THEE, O LORD, to know the mystery of life, that we may use the earthly as the appointed expression and type of the heavenly, and by using to THY glory the natural body may befit it to be exalted to the use of the spiritual body.

Δ Δ Δ

Christina Georgina Rossetti

O LORD, make us we implore THEE, so to love THEE that THOU mayest be to us a Fire of Love, purifying and not destroying.

Δ Δ Δ

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Love me in sinners and saints,
In each who needs or faints—
LORD, I will love THEE as I can
In every brother man.

Δ Δ Δ

Hindu Prayer

They who never ask anything but simply love,
THOU in their heart abidest for ever, for this is
THY very home.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Hindu Prayer

Out of the unreal, lead me to the Real.
Out of the Darkness, lead me into the Light.
Out of Death, lead me to Deathlessness.

△ △ △

Rabindranath Tagore

Give me the strength lightly to bear
my joys and sorrows,
Give me the strength to make my love
fruitful in service.
Give me the strength to raise my mind
high above daily trifles,
And give me the strength to surrender
my strength to THY will with love.

△ △ △

I. Wright Beach

Heavenly FATHER, THOU has healed me
through the sweet restoring influence of divine
love and I feel THY rich, new life now coursing
through my entire body.

△ △ △

Brihtnoth

O GOD, I thank THEE for all the joy I have
had in life.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Rudyard Kipling

FATHER in heaven, who lovest all,
O help THY children when they call;
That they may build from age to age,
An undefiled heritage.
Teach us to bear THY yoke in youth,
With steadiness and careful truth;
That, in our time, THY grace may give
The truth whereby the nations live.
Teach us to rule ourselves always
Controlled and cleanly, night and day,
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.
Teach us to look in all our ends
On THEE for judge, and not our friends,
That we, with THEE, may walk uncowed
By fear or favor of the crowd.
Teach us the strength that cannot seek,
By deed or thought to hurt the weak;
That under THEE, we may possess
THY strength, to succor man's distress.
Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that had no bitter stings;
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun.

Δ Δ Δ

John Colet

Let not our sins be a cloud between THEE and
us.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Katherine Augusta Tingley

O my DIVINITY! THOU dost blend with the earth and fashion for THYSELF temples of mighty Power.

O my DIVINITY! THOU livest in the heart-life of all things and dost radiate a Golden Light that shineth forever and doth illumine even the darkest corners of the earth.

O my DIVINITY! Blend THOU with me that form the corruptible I may become Incorruptible; that from imperfection I may become Perfection, that from darkness I may go forth in Light.

Δ Δ Δ

Golden Words of N.H.D.

Let not my dreams of Things I hold most dear
Tie me to earth, but with a vision clear,
Help me to build this day, dear LORD
with THEE,

The things which last through all eternity.

Attune my ears to hear THY message, LORD;
Inspire my lips to speak alone THY word.

Veil THOU mine eyes from things I
should not see,
Help me to leave my burdens all with THEE.

Δ Δ Δ

M.S.F.

Dear FATHER, we thank THEE for this beautiful world.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Gorsedd Prayer

Grant, GOD, protection
And in protection, strength
And in strength, understanding
And in understanding, knowledge
And in knowledge, the knowledge of the just,
And in the knowledge of the just, the love of it,
And in the love of it, the love of all existences.
And in the love of all existences, the love of GOD,
GOD and all GOODNESS.

Δ Δ Δ

John White Chadwick

I do not pray because I would,
I pray because I must.
There's no beseeching in my prayer,
But thankfulness and trust.
And THOU wilt hear the thought I mean
And not the word I say,
Wilt hear the thanks between the words
That only seem to pray.

Δ Δ Δ

Sister E. T. Cawdrey

O GOD, THINE is the kingdom, the power and
the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Δ Δ Δ

Sister E. T. Cawdry

Let us go into the silence; O GOD, our Heavenly FATHER, before THY altar of love we come and in praise and adoration we lift up our voices unto THEE. O THOU great living light of the universe, we THY children ask THEE to grant unto us THY richest blessing and to remove all shadow of doubt from our minds as regards the life that awaiteth each one of us when we too shall pass through the gates called death. But we thank THEE, O GOD, that the light of heaven has illumined our Pathway and that THOU hast given unto us this light that indeed is a living power to sustain and to uphold us at all times.

Δ Δ Δ

Kenneth Sylvan Guthrie

O HEAVENLY WISDOM, Who art the glorious fullness of the rays of Infinite Love and Righteousness, Piety and Justice, Tenderness and Stern Re-proof, we supplicate for THY control. We would not willingly continue stumbling on in our old way. Our hearts are open to THY view; to the utmost are we willing to do Thy will. O that we might not be left unknowingly to leave the Narrow Way! Not because of the suffering which we willingly accept from THY dear Hand, but the withdrawing of THY dear Face. We will do our best; it shall be only for lack of Guidance if we fail to do THY Will. Amen.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Beatrice Colony

For health, prosperity and happiness
To THEE I pray,
But most of all a smile to greet
The newborn day.

△ △ △

Walter De Voe

In divinest self surrender,
O my LORD, I come to THEE,
All my life to THEE I render;
I will THINE almoner Be.

△ △ △

John Keble

Sun of my Soul, THOU SAVIOR DEAR!
It is not night if THOU be near.
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide THEE from THY servant's eyes.

△ △ △

Lady Margery Kempe of Lynn

LORD for THY great goodness, have mercy on
my wickedness, as certainly I was never so wicked
as THOU art good, nor never may be though I
would; for THOU art so good that THOU mayest
no better be.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Charles How

Most great and glorious GOD, be graciously pleased, I most humbly beseech THEE, to make the stream of my will perpetually to flow a cheerful and impetuous course, bearing down pleasure, interest, afflictions, death, and all other obstacles and impediments whatsoever, before it, till it plunge itself joyfully into the unfathomable ocean of THY DIVINE WILL.

Δ Δ Δ

Louis Lisener

Holy Spirit!
Give me a clear mind,
A pure heart,
A contrite spirit,
And a healthy body. Amen.

Δ Δ Δ

Francis Rous

Let my love rest in nothing short of THEE, O GOD. Kindle and inflame and enlarge my love. Enlarge the arteries and conduit-pipes by which THOU, the Head and Fountain of Love, flowest in THY members, that being abundantly quickened and watered with the Spirit I may abundantly love THEE. Put THINE own image and beauty more and more on my soul.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Richard Rolle

When so it liketh THEE, love speaks send
THOU me; make mine heart all hot to be,
burning in the love of THEE.

△ △ △

Grenville Kleiser

If I can do some good today,
If I can serve along life's way,
If I can something helpful say,
LORD, show me how!
If I can right a human wrong,
If I can help to make one strong,
If I can cheer with smile or song,
LORD, show me how!
If I can aid one in distress,
If I can make a burden less,
If I can spread more happiness,
LORD, show me how!
If I can do a kindly deed,
If I can help someone in need,
If I can sow a fruitful seed,
LORD, show me how!
If I can feed a hungry heart,
If I can give a better start,
If I can fill a nobler part,
LORD, show me how!

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Veni Cooper Mathieson

O great FATHER-MOTHER GOD.
THY eternal Life is my life.
THY infinite Wisdom guides me.
THY wondrous Intelligence illumines my mind.
THY glorious Substance feeds me.
THY perfect Health is revealed in me.
THY infinite Power upholds me.
THY almighty Strength is my support.
THY unchanging Love surrounds me.
THY eternal Truth has made me free.
THY perfect Peace broods over me.

Δ Δ Δ

Grace B. Norris

DIVINE LOVE, PRINCIPLE, GOD of
love, I pray;
Guide me in the way of Truth
Tenderly, today.
Weed my heart of weariness, scatter
every care.
Teach me how to know the truth:
Love is everywhere.

Δ Δ Δ

Scupoli

Behold THY creature; do with me what THOU
wilt. I have nothing, my GOD, that holds me back.
I am THINE alone.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

F.W. Scott

THY glory alone, O GOD, be the end of
all that we say;
Let it shine in every deed, let it kindle the
prayers that I pray;
Let it burn in my innermost soul till the
shadow of self pass away,
And the light of THY glory, O GOD, be
unveiled in the dawning of day.

Δ Δ Δ

C.S. Tirpenting

ALMIGHTY LIFE! THOU FORCE that bides
with all,
Awake my soul to see and use THY might,
And give me strength to heed THY daily call,
To walk with THEE in paths of truth and right.
Absolve me from all vain and useless thought
That clouds the vision of my daily task,
And help me labor in the field I ought
Till I can do for self the things I ask.
THOU art my harbor and my fortress too.
In THY strong arms support me on my way.
If THOU and I shall guard the things I do
I know I shall be safe by night and day.

Δ Δ Δ

Walter De Voe

The Prayer of faith shall heal the sick.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

E.C. Wilson

Tomorrow
I am content to leave with him
Who gives today
For today the sun smiles
And the earth responds,
And a twinkling, singing sea
Forms lacy patterns on the sand.
O, GOD
I am grateful
For this day!

Δ Δ Δ

Henry Vaughan

THOU SUN of RIGHTEOUSNESS with healing
under THY wings, arise in my heart; make THY
light there to shine in darkness, and a perfect day
in the dead of night.

Δ Δ Δ

H.

FATHER—MOTHER—SON in ONE,
From our inmost hearts we plead
For power to love unselfishly,
For wisdom to perceive aright,
For courage to pursue a righteous course,
For determination of purpose, and
For will to act according to THY will.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Michael Wood

Within THY Heart, O HOLY ONE of GOD,
 Make us to rest;
Within THY still and changeless Heart, O LORD,
 Not on THY Breast.
THOU willest it shall tremble with our woes,
 Renouncing peace.
Feeling our joys that we may find our home,
 Where dreams shall cease.
Within THY Heart may we find earthly shows
 Close garner'd there by THEE;
The saints we honour'd, sinners whom we lov'd
 We in THY Heart shall see.
Within the still and changeless Light of Truth,
 The Wisdom from above,
We shall give honour where we lov'd and wept,
And to the honour'd—love.

Δ Δ Δ

Emanuel Geibel

Strecke die Hand nur empor im Gebet, GOTT
fasst sie von oben,
Und die Berührung durchströmt dich mit
geheiliger Kraft.

*Stretch the hand only upward in prayer,
God seize it from above,
And the touch flows through thee
With holy strength.*

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

I.O.S.

Thy love provides for all
THY substance feeds all
THY Purity clothes all
THY life preserves all
Thanksgiving, honor, praise, and glory to THEE
Evermore. Amen.

Δ Δ Δ

Anonymous

Universal GOD,
Our Life,
Our Light,
Our Power!
THOU art in All beyond expression and
beyond conception.
O Nature! THOU something from nothing
THOU Symbol of Wisdom!
In myself I am nothing, In THEE I am I.
I live in THEE! I, made of nothing!
Live THOU in me and bring me out of
the region of self
Into the ETERNAL LIGHT.

Δ Δ Δ

Edward Rowland Sill

GOD be merciful to me, a fool.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Belle-May

Prayer brings us into harmony with the highest in nature.

△ △ △

Alphonse de Lamartine

Prière! O voix surnaturelle
Qui nous précipite à genoux;
Instinct du ciel qui nous rappelle
Que la patrie est loin de nous.

*Prayer! O supernatural voice
Which forces us to our knees;
Heavenly instinct which calls to us
When our fatherland is faraway.*

△ △ △

Judah ha-Levi

Incline Thou mine heart
To do the service of Thy Kingdom,
And my thought
Make pure for knowledge of Thy Godship.

△ △ △

Solomon ibn Gabirol

In the flood of Thy love I have rapture eternal
And prayer is but an occasion for praise.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

St. Augustine

O GOD, WHO dost grant us what we ask, if only when we ask we live a better life.

Δ Δ Δ

Talmud

May it be Thy will, O God, that we return to Thee in perfect penitence, so that we may not be ashamed to meet our fathers in the life to come.

Δ Δ Δ

Mohammed

O LORD, grant us to love THEE, grant that we may love those that love THEE; grant that we may do the deeds that win THY love. Make the love of THEE to be dearer than ourselves, our families, than wealth, and even than cool water.

Δ Δ Δ

Theologica Germanica

I would fain be to the ETERNAL GOODNESS what his own hand is to a man.

Δ Δ Δ

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Prayer is the contemplation of the facts of Life from the highest Point of view.

Δ Δ Δ

Black Elk

Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you—the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road, and the road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things.

Δ Δ Δ

Dhu'l-Nun al Misri

O God, I never hearken to the voices of the beasts or the rustle of the trees, the splashing of waters or the song of birds, the whistling of the wind or the rumble of thunder, but I sense in them a testimony to Thy Unity and a proof of Thy Incomparableness; that Thou art the All-prevailing, the All-knowing, the All-wise, the All-just, the All-true, and that in Thee is neither overthrow nor ignorance nor folly nor injustice nor lying. O God, I acknowledge Thee in the proof of Thy handiwork and the evidence of Thy acts: grant me, O God, to seek Thy Satisfaction with my satisfaction, and the Delight of a Father in His child, remembering Thee in my love for Thee, with serene tranquillity and firm resolve.

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Shams ud-din Mohammed Hafiz

O God! since for our every want Thou dost
provide,
And art our Judge, our all-sufficient Helper,
Guide;
 Why should I tell the secrets of my heart
 to Thee
Who art Omniscient, and from Whom no secrets
hide?
The express image of the word “Divine” art Thou!
The mirror of all loveliness art Thou!
 Without Thee in this world naught of itself
 exists;
Search where we will, we surely find all, all is—
 Thou!
Sole object of my heart’s desire and love art Thou!
Sole Source of all the passionate love I feel art
 Thou!
 When’er I look upon the world and Time,
 I see
All, all is Thou today—tomorrow all is Thou.

Δ Δ Δ

R. A. Nicholson

Soul of the World, to Thee I turn again
With bleeding heart and bring Thee all my pain,
 Myself behind, before me need and woe,
And love still waxing—never may it wane!

Δ Δ Δ

Jalal-ud-din Rumi

O Thou who art my soul's comfort in the season
of sorrow,
O Thou who art my spirit's treasure in the
bitterness of death!
That which the imagination has not conceived, that
which the understanding has not seen
Visiteth, my soul from Thee; hence in worship I
turn toward Thee. . . .
If a never-ceasing bounty should of kingdoms,
If a hidden treasure should set before me all that
exists,
I would bow down with my soul, I would lay my
face in the dust,
I would say, "Of all these the love of such a One
for me!"

Δ Δ Δ

Omar Khayyam

I am an erring slave, accept Thou me!
My soul is dark, make me Thy light to see!
If heaven be but the wage for service done,
Where are Thy bounty and Thy Charity?
O Thou! who know'st the secret thoughts of all,
In time of sorest need who aidest all,
Grant me repentance, and accept my plea,
O Thou who dost accept the pleas of all.

Δ Δ Δ

Nur ud-din ‘Abd-ur-rahman ibn Ahmad Jami

Make my heart pure, my soul from error free,
Make tears and sighs my daily lot to be,
And lead me on Thy road away from self,
That lost to self I may draw near to Thee!
Set enmity between the world and me,
Make me averse from worldly company:
From other objects turn away my heart,
So that it be engrossed with love to Thee.

△ △ △

Rabi‘a al-Adawiyya

O my Joy and my Desire and my Refuge,
My Friend and my Sustainer and my Goal,
Thou art my Intimate, and longing for Thee
sustains me,
Were it not for Thee, O my Life and my Friend,
How I should have been distraught over the spaces
of the earth,
How many favors have been bestowed, and how
much hast Thou given me.
Of gifts and grace and assistance,
Thy love is now my desire and my bliss,
And has been revealed to the eye of my heart that
was athirst,
I have none beside Thee, Who dost make the desert
blossom,
Thou art my joy, firmly established within me,
If Thou art satisfied with me, then
O Desire of my heart, my happiness has appeared.

Rabi'a al-Adawiyya

O God, the night has passed and the day has dawned. How I long to know if Thou hast accepted (my prayers) or if Thou hast rejected them. Therefore, console me for it is Thine to console this state of mine. Thou hast given me life and cared for me and Thine is the glory. If Thou wert to drive me from Thy door, yet would I not forsake it, for the love that I bear in my heart towards Thee.

Δ Δ Δ

Al-Junaid of Baghdad

Now I have known, O Lord,
What lies within my heart;
In secret, from the world apart,
My tongue hath talked with my Adored.
So in a manner we
United are, and One;
Yet otherwise disunion
Is our estate eternally.
Though from my gaze profound
Deep awe hath hid Thy Face,
In wondrous and ecstatic Grace
I feel Thee touch my inmost ground.

Δ Δ Δ

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Francis of Assisi

All mighty, eternal, just, and merciful God,
grant us in our misery [the grace]
to do for You alone
What we know You want us to do,
and always
to desire what pleases You.

Δ Δ Δ

Rabi'a al-Adawiyya

I love Thee with two loves, a love that is passion
And one which besides Thou hast earned as
Thy due.
The passionate love is the thought which
forgetting
All else is of You, aye, for ever of You.
Thou earnedst the other by rending asunder
All veils and disclosing Thyself to my view.
Not mine be the praise for the one or the other
The praise and the thanks are all Thine for the
two.

Δ Δ Δ

Sha'wana

O my God, how great is my desire to meet
with Thee and how great is my hope of Thy re-
ward. Thou art gracious, there is no disappoint-
ment from Thee, the Hope of all who hope; there
is no frustration with Thee, Thou Desire of all who
yearn.

Srimad Bhagavatam

Thou art the Lord of universe,
Beyond all name and form:
Who can express thee, thou who art
inexpressible?
Yet they sing the glory of thy power,
For thou dost charm away all evil.
Beyond speech and mind art thou, yet easily
attainable by thy devotees;
Thou dost manifest thyself to those who worship
thee in any name or form,
If only that worship is offered thee with a sincere
and devoted heart.

Δ Δ Δ

Srimad Bhagavatam

Thou art Holiness;
Holiness is thy name.
Thou art the friend of the poor and lowly.
Thou art manifest in the hearts of all
Who take shelter at thy Lotus Feet;
They are purified by thy holy presence.
Thou art the highest of the high;
Thy peace reigneth in the universe.
Associating thyself with thy divine maya,
Thou dost create, preserve, and dissolve this
universe;
Yet thou existest in thine own primal glory, pure
and absolute.
Obeisance unto thee!

Srimad Bhagavatam

Even as rivers spring from different sources,
Yet mingle in the ocean,
So all the Vedas, all Scriptures, all Truth, though
of diverse origin,
Come home to thee!

△ △ △

Srimad Bhagavatam

Thou art the Atman, the divine Self;
Not without do the wise seek thee, but within,
For thou art present in the hearts of all.
Knowledge brings freedom,
But the mere intellect gives no knowledge of thee.
Those who devote themselves to thy service
Come to know thee through thy grace.
May I be even the least of thy devotees,
And may I devote my life to thy service alone!

△ △ △

The Cloud of Unknowing

God unto whom all hearts are open and unto whom
every will speaks, and from whom no secret thing
is hidden, I pray Thee to cleanse the intent of my
heart with the ineffable gift of Thy grace, that I
may perfectly love Thee, and worthily praise Thee.

△ △ △

Rabi'a al-Adawiyya

O my God, the best of Thy gifts within my heart is the hope of Thee and the sweetest word upon my tongue is Thy praise, and the hours which I love best are those in which I meet with Thee. O my God, I cannot endure without the remembrance of Thee in this world and how shall I be able to endure without the vision of Thee in the next world? O my Lord, my plaint to Thee is that I am but a stranger in Thy country, and lonely among Thy worshippers.

△ △ △

Kabir

Are you looking for me? I am in the next seat.
My shoulder is against yours.

You will not find me in stupas, not in Indian shrine
rooms, nor in synagogues, nor in cathedrals:
not in masses, nor kirtans, not in legs winding
around your own neck, nor in eating nothing
but vegetables.

When you really look for me, you will see me
instantly—

you will find me in the tiniest house of time.

Kabir says: Student, tell me, what is God?

He is the breath inside the breath.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Ryokan

In all ten directions of the universe,
there is only one truth.

When we see clearly, the great teachings are the
same.

What can ever be lost? What can be attained?
If we attain something, it was there from the
beginning of time.

If we lose something, it is hiding somewhere
near us.

Look: this ball in my pocket:
Can you see how priceless it is?

△ △ △

Lao-tzu

The highest good is like that of water. The good-
ness of water is that it benefits the ten thousand
creatures, yet itself does not wrangle, but is con-
tent with the places that all men disdain. It is this
that makes water so near to the Tao.

△ △ △

Basho

Dew drops, let me cleanse
in your brief, sweet waters
these dark hands of life.

△ △ △

MYSTICS AT PRAYER

Sitting Bull

Behold, my brothers, the spring has come;
The earth has received the embraces of the sun
And we shall soon see the results of that love!
Every seed is awakened and so has all animal
life.

It is through this mysterious power that we too
have our being
And we therefore yield to our neighbors,
Even our animal neighbors,
The same right as ourselves, to inhabit this land.

△ △ △

Mary Austin

I arise, facing East,
I am asking toward the light;
I am asking that my day
Shall be beautiful with light.
I am asking that the place
Where my feet are shall be light,
That as far as I can see
I shall follow it aright.
I am asking for the courage
To go forward through the shadow,
I am asking toward the light!

△ △ △

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THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER

Purpose and Work of the Order

The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is a philosophical and initiatic tradition. As students progress in their studies, they are initiated into the next level or degree.

Rosicrucians are men and women around the world who study the laws of nature in order to live in harmony with them. Individuals study the Rosicrucian lessons in the privacy of their own homes on subjects such as the nature of the soul, developing intuition, classical Greek philosophy, energy centers in the body, and self-healing techniques.

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