



Universal Worship Service • Prayers and Scripture Readings
December 6, 2020

Invocation

Towards the One
The Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty
The Only Being
United with all the illuminated souls
Who form the embodiment of the Master
The Spirit of Guidance.

Prayer Saum

Praise be to Thee, Most Supreme God,
Omnipotent, Omnipresent, All-pervading, the Only Being.
Take us in Thy Parental Arms, raise us from the denseness of the earth,
Thy Beauty do we worship, to Thee do we give willing surrender.
Most Merciful and Compassionate God,
the Idealized Lord of the whole humanity,
Thee only do we worship, and towards Thee Alone we aspire.
Open our hearts towards Thy Beauty,
illuminate our souls with Divine Light,
O Thou, the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty,
All-powerful Creator, Sustainer, Judge and Forgiver of our shortcomings,
Lord God of the East and of the West,
of the worlds above and below, and of the seen and unseen beings:
Pour upon us Thy Love and thy Light,
give sustenance to our bodies, hearts and souls,
use us for the purpose that Thy Wisdom chooseth,
and guide us on the path of Thine Own Goodness.
Draw us closer to Thee every moment of our life, until in us be reflected
Thy Grace, Thy Glory, Thy Wisdom, Thy Joy and Thy Peace.
Amen.

Hindu Scripture, Rig Veda

Book 10, Hymn XXXVII, Sūrya

- 4) O Sūrya, with the light whereby thou scatterest gloom,
and with thy ray impellest every moving thing,
Keep far from us all feeble, worthless sacrifice,
and drive away disease and every evil dream.
- 6) This invocation, these our words may Heaven and Earth hear.
Ne'er may we suffer want in presence of the Sun,
- 7) Cheerful in spirit, evermore, and keen of sight,
free from sickness and from sin,
Long-living, may we look, O Sūrya, upon thee uprising day by day!
- 8) O Sūrya, O Far-seeing One, bringing the glorious light,
The radiant God, the spring of joy to every eye,
as thou art mounting up o'er the high shining flood.
- 9) Thou by whose lustre all the world of life comes forth,
and by Thy beams again returns unto rest,
O Sūrya with the golden hair, ascend for us day after day,
still bringing purer innocence.
- 10) Bless us with shine, bless us with perfect daylight,
bless us with fervent heat and lustre.

Buddhist Scripture, Suvarnaprabhasa Sutra

Excerpts from the Golden Light Sutra

I prostrate to the Buddhas, oceans of virtue,
Golden like Mount Sumeru.

Their compassionate light dispels the double mantle of darkness;
Buddhas are suns, blazing glory, splendor and renown,

From pristine limbs, the Buddhas' sun
Radiates shafts of golden light.

I prostrate to the Buddhas whose bodies sparkle gold.
May sentient beings evolve into such buddhas.

As soon as [they] the Buddhas are born, their bodies illuminate
The triple realms and all ten directions' worlds;
Limitless suffering is dispelled by this light
And sentient beings are sustained with all happiness.

The sun of the Buddhas is the light of the world.

Zoroastrian Scripture, Khorda Avesta

Atash Niyayesh (Prayer to Fire)

- 7) I bless in reverence and adoration the abiding offering,
the joyous offering and the devotional offering
to you, O Fire! son of Ahura Mazda.
Worthy of sacrifice, worthy of prayer you are!
- 8) May you be provided with proper fuel!
May you be provided with proper incense!
May you be provided with proper nourishment!
May you be maintained by one wise, O Fire, son of Ahura Mazda.
- 9) In order to be ever burning in this house,
in order to be blazing in this house,
in order to be increasing in this house,
Even throughout the Long Time.
- 10) Give me, O Fire, son of Ahura Mazda—well-being in abundance;
life in abundance; understanding for (my) soul;
and wisdom (which is) comprehensive, great, imperishable.
- 12) Give me, O Fire, son of Ahura Mazda, the Best World of the righteous,
the shining, the all-happy, so that it may fulfill my wish, now and for ever,
so as to attain to good reward and to long happiness of my soul!

Jewish Scripture, Bible, Old Testament

Daniel 2:22

- 22) It is God who reveals the profound and hidden things;
God knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with God.

Isaiah 60:19-20

- 19) No longer will you have the sun for light by day,
Nor for brightness will the moon give you light;
But you will have the Lord for an everlasting light,
And your God for your glory.
- 20) “Your sun will no longer set,
Nor will your moon wane;
For you will have the Lord for an everlasting light,
And the days of darkness will be over.

Christian Scripture, The Bible, New Testament

Luke 11:33-36

- 33) “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel,
but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.
- 34) Your eye is the lamp of your body;
when your eye is sound, your whole body is full of light;
but when it is not sound, your body is full of darkness.
- 35) Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.
- 36) If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark,
it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

John 8:12

- 12) Then Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world;
The one [he] who follows Me will not walk in the darkness,
but will have the Light of Life.”

Islamic Scripture, Quran

Sura 24:35 *Ayat an-Nur*, the Verse of Light

Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth;
the likeness of [His] Allah’s light is as a niche
wherein is a lamp, the lamp is in a crystal,
the crystal is like a shining star
kindled from (the oil) of a blessed olive tree,
that is neither of the East nor of the West
whose oil well nigh would shine, even if no fire touched it;
Light upon light; Allah guides to [His] Thy light whom [he] Allah will.”^[7]

Prayer Salat

Most gracious Lord, Master, Messiah, and Savior of humanity,
We greet Thee in all humility.

Thou art the First Cause and the Last Effect,
the Divine Light and the Spirit of Guidance, Alpha and Omega.
Thy Light is in all forms, Thy Love in all beings:
in a loving mother, in a kind father, in an innocent child,
in a helpful friend, in an inspiring teacher.

Allow us to recognize Thee in all Thy holy names and forms:
as Rama, as Krishna, as Shiva, as Buddha.

Let us know Thee as Abraham, as Solomon, as Zarathustra,
as Moses, as Jesus, as Mohammed,
and in many other names and forms, known and unknown to the world.

We adore Thy past, Thy presence deeply enlightens our being,
and we look for Thy blessing in the future.

O Messenger, Christ, Nabi, the Rasul of God!

Thou Whose heart constantly reacheth upward,
Thou comest on earth with a message,
as a dove from above when Dharma decayeth,
and speakest the Word that is put into Thy mouth,
as the light filleth the crescent moon.

Let the star of the Divine Light shining in Thy heart
be reflected in the hearts of Thy devotees.

May the Message of God reach far and wide,
illuminating and making the whole humanity
as one single Brotherhood in the Fatherhood of God.

Amen.

Gayan

Belief in God is the fuel, love of God is the glow,
and the realization of God is the flame of Divine Light.

Prayer Khatum

O Thou, Who art the Perfection of Love, Harmony, and Beauty,
The Lord of heaven and earth, open our hearts,
that we may hear Thy Voice, which constantly cometh from within.
Disclose to us Thy Divine Light, which is hidden in our souls,
that we may know and understand life better.
Most Merciful and Compassionate God,
give us Thy great Goodness, Teach us Thy loving Forgiveness,
Raise us above the distinctions and differences which divide men,
Send us the Peace of Thy Divine Spirit,
And unite us all in Thy Perfect Being.
Amen.

Benediction

May the Blessings of God rest upon you,
May God's Peace abide with you,
May God's Presence illuminate your heart, now and forevermore.