

Prayer for Humanity

As a member of the human family, I consider it both a pleasure and my duty to participate in the 'Prayer for Humanity' proposed by the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity.

HCHF's call for prayer is indeed a noble initiative, particularly so with its open-minded and tolerant vision for global unity, inviting those of diverse religions to join together and also respecting the worlds' scientific medical fraternity, which is frantically trying to find a cure for Covid-19.

Prayer is the fundamental base of all religions. For believers, prayer is the first and last resort, for both expressing gratitude and seeking help; it is a way of direct communion with God, from whom all goodness emanates and whose infinite power, love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness are measureless and know no bounds. It will thus be wonderful to collectively pray for Divine Grace to be showered upon us all. We all need it!

Some may see unity within human society as a far-fetched pipe dream, but we would all benefit enormously by pursuing the goal of unity, solidarity and cohesion. It is paradoxical that no two human individuals are identical, yet both are spiritually interconnected and naturally interdependent. The spark of the Divine dwells within us all.

As a Sikh I am informed by our sacred scripture, Guru Granth Sahib Ji, that God Almighty first created Himself, followed by the Divine Word - the infinite and eternal resonance of His presence. Next, God created Mother Nature, as second in command. Since the same spark of the Divine is within all life forms, it is essential that we never take Mother Nature for granted and offer prayers for Her wellbeing as well.

For many people at present, it is easy to be overwhelmed by a sense of vulnerability, anxiousness and morbid fearfulness on account of the Coronavirus. Most of all, may our prayers help us shed our worst human affliction, which is arrogance. Let us pray in utter humility, that we may earn God's blessings in finding a cure.

I am reminded of the following portion of a quote by the Native American 'Big Thunder (Bedagi) Wabanaki Algonquin.

"The Great Spirit is in all things:
He is in the air we breathe...
We have forgotten who we are.
We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge.
We have abused our power."

As we join together in prayer, may it inspire reverence, humility and a thirst for genuine change within us all.

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