

THE BEAUTIFUL NAMES OF ALLAH

There is a region beyond darkness where there is neither day nor night, nor what is, nor what is not. Only Siva, the god of love, is there. It is the region of the glorious splendour of God from whom came the light of the sun, and from whom the ancient wisdom came in the beginning.

The mind cannot grasp him above, or below, or in the space in between. With whom shall we compare him whose glory is the whole universe?

Far beyond the range of vision, he cannot be seen by mortal eyes; but he can be known by the heart and mind, and those who know him attain immortality
from the Svetasvatura Upanishad

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not
from the Gospel according to Saint John

Thou art God, and all things formed are Thy servants and worshippers....

Thou art God, by Thy Godhead sustaining all that hath been formed.

And upholding in Thy Unity all creatures.

Thou art God, and there is no distinction betwixt Thy Godhead and Thy Unity, Thy pre-existence and Thy existence.

For 'tis all one mystery;

And although the name of each be different,

'Yet they are all proceeding to one place.'

Solomon Ibn-Gabirol (from the Royal Crown)

O Mankind! We created you from a single pair— male and female—and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other, not that ye may despise each other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted with all things.

from the Quran

Song

We all come from God and unto Him shall we return
Like a stream flowing back to the ocean
Like a ray of light returning to the sun
We all come from God and unto Him shall we return
from writings of the Baha'i Faith

As rivers seek the sea,

Much more deep than they,

So my soul seeks thee

Far away:

As running rivers moan

On their course alone,

So I moan

Left alone.

As the delicate rose

To the sun's sweet strength

Doth herself unclose,

Breadth and length:

So spreads my heart to thee

Unveiled utterly,

I to thee

Utterly.

As morning dew exhales

Sunwards pure and free,

So my spirit fails

After thee:

As dew leaves not a trace

On the green earth's face;

I, no trace

On thy face.

Its goal the river knows,

Dewdrops find a way,

Sunlight cheers the rose

In her day:

Shall I, lone sorrow past,

Find thee at the last?

Sorrow past.

Thee at last?

Christina Rossetti (Confluents)

When thou dost contemplate the innermost essence of all things, and the individuality of each, thou wilt behold the signs of thy Lord's mercy in every created thing, and see the spreading rays of His Names and Attributes throughout all the realm of being... Then wilt thou observe that the universe is a scroll that discloseth His hidden secrets, which are preserved in the well-guarded Tablet. And there is not an atom of all the atoms in existence, not a creature from amongst the creatures but speaketh His praise and telleth of His attributes and names, revealeth the glory of His might and guideth to His oneness and His mercy.

Abdu'l-Baha

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,-

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest,-

It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes

The throned monarch better than his crown:

His scepter shows the force of temoral power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,

Wherin doth sit the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above the sceptered sway,-
It is enthroned in the heart of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

William Shakespeare (The Merchant of Venice)

Song: *The Divine Image*

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness

from Ten Bake Songs by Ralph Vaughn Williams

You will not enter paradise until you have faith and
you will not complete your faith until you love one
another.

Prophet Mohammad

Beware lest ye harm any soul, or make any heart to
sorrow; lest ye wound any man with your words, be he
known to you or a stranger, be he friend or foe. Pray
ye for all; ask that all be blessed, all be forgiven. Be-
ware, beware, lest any of you seek vengeance even
against one who is thirsting for your blood. Beware
lest ye offend the feelings of another, even though he
be an evil-doer, and he wish you ill, Look ye not upon
the creatures, turn ye to their Creator. See ye not the
never-yielding people, see but the Lord of Hosts. Gaze
ye not down upon the dust, gaze upward at the shining
sun, which hath caused every patch of darksome earth
to glow with light.

Abdu'l Baha

I am a Lamp to thee who beholdest Me.

I am a Mirror to thee who perceivest Me,
I am a Door to thee who knockest at Me,
I am a Way to thee a wayfarer

from A Hymn of Jesus

Let us praise our Maker, with true passion extol Him.
Let the whole creation give out another sweetness,
Nicer in our nostrils, a novel fragrance
From cleansed occasions in accord together
As one feeling fabric, all flushed and intact,
Phenomena and numbers announcing in one
Multitudinous oecumenical song
Their grand givenness of gratitude and joy,
Peaceable and plural, their positive truth
An authoritative This, an unthreatened Now
When, in love and in laughter, each lives itself,
For united by His Word, cognition and power,
System and Order, are a single glory.

And the pattern is complex, their places safe.

W. H. Auden (Anthem)

*I thank You God for most this amazing
day:* for the leaping greenly spirit of trees
and a blue dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(I who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday: this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing-human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my eyes awake and
now the eyes of my ears are opened)

E.E. Cummings

Thy name is my healing, O my God, and remem-
brance of Thee is my remedy. Nearness to Thee is my
hope, and love for Thee is my companion. Thy mercy
to me is my healing and my succor in both this world
and the world to come. Thou verily, art the All-
Bountiful, the All-Knowing,
the All-Wise.

Baha'u'llah