

New Thing Entire

Opening Music ~ Josh Bennett

Remembrance

- ~ *Baha'u'llah, from the Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *from the Hermetica of Hermes Trismegistus*
- ~ *from the Qu'ran*
- ~ *Zen Buddhism: Eihei Dogen*
- ~ *from the Christian Bible*
- ~ *Guru Nanak. Sikh writings*
- ~ *from Ramakrishna his life and sayings*
- ~ *Tom Simpson Freight Train*
- ~ *'Abdu'l-Baha to a Unitarian Conference*

Music ~ Josh Bennett

Birth

- ~ *'Abdu'l-Baha, from the Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *William Morris: News from Nowhere*
- ~ *Jalal al-Din Rumi, mystical Poems*
- ~ *Photo Essay We are One*
- ~ *Native American Tradition Footprints*
- ~ *Baha'u'llah, from the Bahá'í Writings*

Music ~ Josh Bennett

Life

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Musical Finale ~ Josh Bennett

“On this day of National Mourning for the Tsunami disaster, we pray for
the souls of all those people who lost their lives,
for the assistance of the survivors
and the speedy restoration of normal life in these countries.”

from a letter by National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Australia, 7 January 2005

Remembrance

Ye are all the leaves of one tree

Baha'u'llah

OPENING MUSIC
Josh Bennett

O Son of Man!

Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty.

O Children of Men!

Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul. To walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. Such is My counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory.

O Son of Man!

The temple of being is My throne; cleanse it of all things, that there I may be established and there I may abide.

from the Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah

Once on a time, when I began to think about things that are, and my thoughts had soared high aloft, while my bodily senses had been put under restraint by sleep,—yet not such sleep as that of men weighed down by fullness of food or by bodily weariness,—methought there came to me a Being of vast and boundless magnitude, who called me by my name, and said to me, ‘What do you wish to hear and see, and to learn and come to know by thought?’ Who are you? I said. ‘I,’ said he, ‘am Poimandres, the Mind of the Sovereignty.’ ‘I would fain learn,’ said I, ‘the things that are, and understand their nature, and get knowledge of God. These,’ I said, ‘are the things of which I wish to hear.’ He answered, ‘I know what you wish, for indeed I am with you everywhere; keep in mind all that you desire to learn, and I will teach you.’

When he had thus spoken, forthwith all things changed forth in aspect before me, and were opened out in a moment. And I beheld a boundless view; all was changed into light, a mild and joyous light; and I marveled when I saw it. . . from the Light there came forth a holy Word, which took its stand upon the watery substance; and methought this Word was the voice of the Light.

“Do you understand the meaning of what you have seen?”

“Tell me its meaning” I said,

“That Light,” he said, “is I, even Mind, the first God, who was before the watery substance which appeared out of the darkness; and the Word which came forth from the Light is son of God. Learn my meaning,” said he, “by looking at what you yourself have in you; for in you too, the word is son, and the mind is father of the word. They are not separate from the other; for life is the union of word and mind.”

Ancient : from the Hermetica of Hermes Trismegistus

Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth.
A likeness of His light is as a niche in which is a lamp,
the lamp is in a glass,
the glass is as it were a bright shining star lit from a blessed olive tree
neither eastern or western,
the oil whereof gives light,
though fire touches it not
light upon light....

from Islam, the Qura'n: 24:39

To study the Buddha way is to study the self.
To study the self is to forget the self.
To forget the self is to be enlightened by the myriad things.
To be enlightened by the myriad things is
to free one's body and mind and those of others.
No trace of enlightenment remains,
and this traceless enlightenment is continued forever.

from Zen Buddhism: Eihei Dogen

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.
For there is no power but of God:
the powers that be are ordained of God. . . .

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor:
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
And that, knowing the time,
that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep:
for now *is* our salvation nearer

from the Christian Bible Romans 13:1-10

He, whose mind is Imbued with the One alone,
Feels not jealous of another.
For, without Govind, he sees not another,
Yea, He the One, the Creator and the Cause.
He, who utters His Name with the tongue
and Dwells upon it in the Mind,
He wavers not here or Hereafter.
He, who has treasured the Lord's Name, is truly Rich.
And of him the Guru stands as the Pledge.
Him Meets the Kingly *Purusha*, the life of all life;
And he, Nanak, attains to the highest state of bliss.

Guru Nanak. *Sikh writings from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib*

The iron, once converted into gold by
the touch of the Philosopher's stone,
may be kept under the ground,
or thrown into a rubbish-heap.
But it remains always gold,
and will never return to its former condition.
Similarly is the case with him who has once touched
the feet of the Almighty.
Whether he dwells in the bustle of the world,
or in the solitude of forests,
nothing will ever contaminate him.

from Ramakrishna his life and sayings

Freight Train

I've noticed you've been staring
out the window for a long time—
Do you want to get off?
I've been traveling this train for twenty-three years,
Or so it seems;
Time becomes so distorted when you travel—
I may have just gotten on, that last stop.
You know, it seems so inevitable for me,
This movement;
Many people aren't aware that they are actually here.
You say that you're afraid of getting off.
I guess that is what seems so inevitable to you...
Getting off.
You must fear the thought
and the timefulness which follows.
Sit with me, would you?
Accept my hand,
Go with me and I will go with you.

Tom Simpson

Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality. Therefore, it must be living, vitalized, moving and progressive. . . This is a century of life and renewal. Sciences and arts, industry and invention have been reformed. Law and ethics have been reconstituted, reorganized. The world of thought has been regenerated. . . . Present exigencies demand new methods of solution; world problems are without precedent. . . . Consider how the scientific developments of fifty years have surpassed and eclipsed the knowledge and achievements of all the former ages combined. Would the announcements and theories of ancient astronomers explain our present knowledge of the suns and planetary systems? . . . Would the mask of obscurity which beclouded medieval centuries meet the demand for clear-eyed vision and understanding which characterizes the world today? . . . Shall man, gifted with the power of reason, unthinkingly follow and adhere to dogma, creeds and hereditary beliefs which will not bear the analysis of reason in this century of effulgent reality?

Creation is the expression of motion. Motion is life. A moving object is a living object, whereas that which is motionless and inert is as dead. All created forms are progressive in their planes, or kingdoms of existence, under the stimulus of the power or spirit of life. The universal energy is dynamic. Nothing is stationary in the material world of outer phenomena or in the inner world of intellect and consciousness.

'Abdu'l-Baha talk to a Unitarian Conference

MUSIC
Josh Bennett

Birth

Ye are all the fruits of one tree

Baha'u'llah

On the Titanic Disaster

Within the last few days a terrible event has happened in the world, an event saddening to every heart and grieving every spirit. I refer to the Titanic disaster, in which many of our fellow human beings were drowned, a number of beautiful souls passed beyond this earthly life. . . it was a very sad occurrence, one which brought tears to many eyes and distress to many souls. . . . Some of those who were lost voyaged on the Cedric with us as far as Naples . . . When I think of them, I am very sad indeed. But when I consider this calamity in another aspect, I am consoled by the realization that the worlds of God are infinite; that though they were deprived of this existence, they have other opportunities in the life beyond, even as Christ has said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." They were called away from the temporary and transferred to the eternal; they abandoned this material existence and entered the portals of the spiritual world. Foregoing the pleasures and comforts of the earthly, they now partake of a joy and happiness far more abiding and real, for they have hastened to the Kingdom of God. The mercy of God is infinite, and it is our duty to remember these departed souls in our prayers and supplications that they may draw nearer and nearer to the Source itself.

Furthermore, these events have deeper reasons. . . . We are living in a day of reliance upon material conditions. Men imagine that the great size and strength of a ship, the perfection of machinery or the skill of a navigator will ensure safety, but . . . God is the real Protector. If it be the will of God to protect man, a little ship may escape destruction, whereas the greatest and most perfectly constructed vessel with the best and most skilful navigator may not survive a danger such as was present on the ocean. The purpose is that the people of the world may turn to God, the One Protector; that human souls may rely upon His preservation and know that He is the real safety. . . . although we feel sad and disheartened, we must supplicate God to turn our hearts to the Kingdom and pray for these departed souls with faith in His infinite mercy so that, although they have been deprived of this earthly life, they may enjoy a new existence in the supreme mansions of the Heavenly Father.

‘Abdu’l-Baha

Go on living while you may, striving with whatsoever
pain and labour needs must be, to build up little by little
the new day of fellowship, and rest, and happiness.

 If others can see it,
then it may be called a vision rather than a dream.

William Morris: *News from Nowhere*

See how every particle of the world is passing by,
see how everyone has arrived from a journey;
see how everyone desirous of his own sustenance,
has bowed his head before the king.
see how,
like the stars,
for the sake of its glow,
are all fallen helplessly at the foot of the sun;
see how,
like torrents in quest of water,
all are tumbling headlong towards the sea.
see how for each from the king's kitchen a table is pre-
pared
according to his needs.
See how the sea of the world is contracted before this
sea-drinking cup.
And as those whose sustenance is the king's counte-
nance,
see how their mouths are filled with sugar of the king's
beauty.
Behold with the eyes of Shams-e Tabrizi;
see another ocean filled with pearls.

Jalal al-Din Rumi; *from the mystical Poems of Rumi*

VIDEO

We are One

FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life
there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened
at the very lowest and saddest time of his life.
That really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
you’d walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me”

The Lord replied,
“My son, My precious child, I love you and would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

Native American Tradition

The purpose of God in creating man hath been, and will ever be, to enable him to know his Creator and to attain His Presence. To this most excellent aim, this supreme objective, all the heavenly Books and the divinely-revealed and weighty Scriptures unequivocally bear witness.

It is incumbent upon every man of insight and understanding to strive to translate that which hath been written into reality and action. . . . That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race Blessed and happy is he that ariseth to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.

If thine eyes be turned toward mercy, forsake the things that profit thee, and cleave unto that which will profit mankind. And if thine eyes be turned toward justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou chooseth for thyself.

Baha'u'llah, *from the Bahá'í Writings*

MUSIC
Josh Bennett

Life

This is a matchless Day

For the first time in history the dream of peace on earth is within the reach of the nations. Indeed, peace is the next stage in the evolution of this planet. Humanity has the choice of reaching peace after unimaginable catastrophes or achieving it by an act of will. . . .

Many signs point to increasing cooperation among nations, while scientific and technological advances provide the means for the solution of humanity's practical problems. . . .

The human spirit, whose essential manifestation is the mind, has created civilization and material progress. That same spirit also seeks transcendence, reaching toward the ultimate reality, the unknowable essence called God. . . .

Bahá'í Faith, *from the Summary of The Promise of World Peace*

Boat

I must launch out my boat.
The languid hours pass on the shore
Alas for me!
The spring has done its flowering and taken leave.
And now with the burden of faded futile flowers I wait and linger.
The waves have been clamorous,
and upon the bank in the shady lane the yellow leaves flutter and fall.
What emptiness do you gaze upon!
Do you not feel a thrill passing through the air
with the notes of the far-away song floating from the other shore?

Rabindranath Tagore

Do you imagine the universe is agitated?
Go into the desert at night and look out at the stars.
This practice should answer the question.
The superior person settles her mind with the subtle origin,
she calms it.
Once calmed,
it naturally expands,
and ultimately her mind becomes as vast and immeasurable
as the night sky

Lao Tzu --*Hua Hu Ching*

I am the Sacrifice!
I am the Prayer. . .
I am of all this boundless Universe . . .
The end of Learning!
That which purifies in lustral water . . .
The Way, the Fosterer,
the Lord, the Judge,
The Witness; the Abode,
the Refuge House, The Friend,
the Fountain and the Sea of Life . . .
Treasure of Worlds and Treasure Chamber!
Seed and Seed-Sower,
Whence endless harvests spring . .
Death am I,
and Immortal Life I am,
Visible Life, and Life Invisible!

from Hindu writings

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
And the power
And the glory
Forever

Christian from the New Testament

...I have proclaimed to my disciples the way to develop
the four foundations of mindfulness.
Here bhikkhu abides contemplating a body as a body,
ardently, fully aware, and mindful,
having put away covetousness and grief for the world.
He abides contemplating feelings as feelings...
He abides contemplating mind as mind...
He abides contemplating mind-objects as mind-objects,
ardent, fully aware, and mindful,
having put away covetousness and grief for the world.
And thereby, many disciples of mine having reached
the consummation and perfection of direct knowledge.

Teachings of the Buddha, *from the Majjhima Nikaya*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil: For Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Old Testament, *Psalms 23*

. . . O God!
Illumine the faces,
render the hearts radiant,
exhilarate the breasts,
crown the heads with the diadem of Thy providence,
cause them to soar in Thy pure atmosphere
so they may reach the highest pinnacles of Thy splendor.
Assist them in order that this world may ever find the light
and effulgence of Thy presence. . . .

O God! . . .
Render them progressive in all degrees.
May they become leaders in the world of humanity.
May they be Thine examples among humankind.
May they be manifestations of Thy grace.
May they be the Mighty.
Thou art the Giver,
And Thou art the Omniscient.

‘Abdu’l-Baha from Promulgation of World Peace.

MUSICAL FINALE
Josh Bennett

Please join us for refreshments after the program