

Rainbow of Reconciliation

**OPENING MUSIC
ONE HEART**

- ~ *from the Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *Jewish from the Old Testament*
- ~ *Christian from the New Testament*
- ~ *Eulalie Zarb A Mythic Dreaming*
- ~ *Prayer of the world Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *C. E. Flynn True Greatness*

**MUSIC
TRUTH**

- ~ *Bahá'u'lláh description of imprisonment*
- ~ *Chant from the Black Pit*
- ~ *interview with Pricilla Haynor*
- ~ *Ovid meditation*
- ~ *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
ACCEPTANCE AND FORGIVENESS**

- ~ *Dhammapada*
- ~ *The Báb Baha'i Prayer*
- ~ *Christian from the New Testament*
- ~ *Oscar Wilde De Profundus*

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE
RECONCILIATION**

- ~ *Michael Paul Living Zen*
- ~ *Bahauallah from the Bahá'í Writings*

MUSICAL FINALE

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MUSIC
performed by

One Heart

*“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate
his life by a conscious endeavour”*

Henry David Thoreau

So intensely hath the glory of Divine Unity penetrated souls and hearts that all are now bound one to another with heavenly ties, and all are even as a single heart, a single soul. Wherefore reflections of the spirit and impressions of the Divine are now mirrored clear and sharp in the deep heart's core. I beg of God to strengthen these spiritual bonds as day followeth day, and make this mystic oneness to shine ever more brightly, until at last all shall be as troops marshaled together . . . within the sheltering shade of the Word of God; that they may strive with all their might until universal fellowship, close and warm, and unalloyed love, and spiritual relationships, will connect all the hearts in the world.

Then will all humankind, because of this fresh and dazzling bounty, be gathered in a single homeland. Then will conflict and dissension vanish from the face of the earth, then will mankind be cradled in love for the beauty of the All-Glorious. Discord will change to accord, dissension to unison. The roots of malevolence will be torn out, the basis of aggression destroyed. The bright rays of union will obliterate the darkness of limitations, and the splendours of heaven will make the human heart to be even as a mine veined richly with the love of God.

Bahá'u'lláh, from the Baha'i Writings

From the Old Testament

O Lord, You have searched me and You know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thought from afar.
You discern my goings out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O my
Lord.

Psalm 139: 1-4

From the New Testament

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Hebrews 13 :1-3

A Mythic Dreaming

Plumed serpent
Sending forth a clarion call To Peace
Leaping the mountain tops
Swooping low into teeming vales
Calling 'Peace'
Circling the boundaries of the earth
Taking in the shapes, the patterns, the colours
Designs
Lace work of the ages
Songs, rhythms, beats, harmonies,
Drawing them deeply within the feathered plumes
Each clan, each tribe, each heartbeat and hope
Each primal rhythm and nuance of colour
Woven now in the plumes of Love and Peace
Every life-giving element woven now into
Rainbow Feathers
Love in Diversity
Peacing the Globe in new dancing
New weavings and blendings,
New stories
New songs
Out of the ancient towards tomorrow now!
The Rainbow Serpent.

Eulalie Zarb

Prayer of the World

True Greatness

A man is as great as the dreams he dreams
As great as the love he bears;
As great as the values he redeems,
And the happiness he shares.

A man is as great as the thoughts he thinks,
As the fountains at which his spirit drinks,
And the insight he has gained.

A man is as great as the truth he speaks,
As great as the help he gives,
As great as the destiny he seeks,
As great as the life he lives.

C. E. Flynn


MUSICAL INTERLUDE



Truth

“We should impart our courage, and not our despair.”

Henry David Thoreau



In 1852 Baha'u'llah was taken to the notorious Siyah-Chal, the "Black Pit" of Tihran, a subterranean dungeon in which He was imprisoned for four months. Along the way He was stoned, ridiculed, and stripped of his outer garments.

“Upon our arrival We were first conducted along a pitch-black corridor, from whence We descended three steep flights of stairs to the place of confinement assigned to Us. The dungeon was wrapped in thick darkness, and Our fellow-prisoners numbered nearly a hundred and fifty souls. . . Though crowded, it had no other outlet than the passage by which We entered. No pen can depict that place, nor any tongue describe its loathsome smell. Most of these men had neither clothes nor bedding to lie on. God alone knoweth what befell Us in that most foul-smelling and gloomy place.”

“All those who were struck down by the storm that raged during that memorable year in Tihran were Our fellow-prisoners in the Siyah-Chal, where we were confined.”

“We were all huddled together in one cell, our feet in stocks, and around our necks fastened the most galling of chains. The air we breathed was laden with a the foulest impurities, while the floor on which we sat was covered with filth and infested with vermin. No ray of light was allowed to penetrate that pestilential dungeon or to warm its icy-coldness. We were placed in two rows, each facing the other. We had taught them to repeat certain verses which, every night, they chanted with extreme fervour. “God is sufficient unto me; He verily is the All-sufficing!” one row would intone, while the other would reply: “In Him let the trusting trust.” The chorus of these gladsome voices would continue to peal out until the early hours of the morning. Their reverberation would fill the dungeon, and, piercing its massive walls, would reach the ears of Nasiri'd-Din Shah, whose palace was not far distant from the place where we were imprisoned. “What means this sound?” he was reported to have exclaimed.”

Baha'u'llah, *from the account of His imprisonment*

Chant from the Black Pit

From the Bahá'í Writings

Several hundred amputees of the war live in a refugee camp in the capital city, Freetown. I went there with a colleague to speak with them, and many told us they were ready to forgive. When we asked about the amnesty written into the new peace accord, they said, "Well, you know, we're not entirely happy with the amnesty, but if that's what's necessary for peace, then we support it." When we asked about their ability to forgive after such horrendous atrocities, they pointed out that many of the perpetrators were their own relatives forced into the war. "These are our brothers and our cousins," one man said. "We want them to come home." I was still skeptical until another man said, "You know, just yesterday, one of the rebels came into the camp, and he told us what he had done, and we all talked about it, and at the end of the conversation, I took the shirt off my own back and gave it to him as a gift of acknowledgment."

From an interview with Priscilla Hayner

A God has made His abode within our breast:
When He raises us, the glow of inspiration warms us;
This Holy rapture springs from the seeds of the Divine mind sown in
man.

Ovid

It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it. We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace. In short, we must shift the arms race into the peace race. Some years ago a novelist died, among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for further stories, the most prominently underscored being this one:

A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together. This is a great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a big house, a great world house in which we have to live together, black men and white men, easterners and westerners, gentiles and Jews, Catholics and Protestants, Muslims and Hindus. A family unduly separated in ideas, culture, and interest, who, because we can never again live without each other, must learn somehow, in this one big world house, to live with each other.

And this is our great challenge. This means that more and more, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. We must now give an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in our individual societies. This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighbourly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing, an unconditional love for all men. I'm not speaking of some sentimental and weak response which is little more than emotional bosh. I'm speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as a supreme unifying principle of life.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MUSIC

Acceptance and Forgiveness
“Fear creates danger, and courage dispels it.”

Henry David Thoreau

All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts, it is made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him, as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the carriage.

All that we are is a result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows him like a shadow that never leaves him . . .

“For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by love, this is an old rule.

Dhammapada chapter 1 verses 1-5

I beg Thee to forgive me, O my Lord, for every mention but the mention of Thee, and for every praise but the praise of Thee, and for every delight but delight in Thy nearness, and for every pleasure but the pleasure of communion with Thee, and for every joy but the joy of Thy love and of Thy good pleasure, and for all things pertaining unto me which bear no relation ship unto Thee, O Thou Who art the Lord of lords, He Who provideth the means and unlocketh the doors.

The Bab

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. . .

The Bible, Revelation 21:1-4

I have lain in this prison for nearly two years. Out of my nature has come wild despair; an abandonment to grief that was piteous even to look at; terrible and impotent rage; bitterness and scorn; anguish that wept aloud; misery that could find no voice; sorrow that was dumb. I have passed through every possible mood of suffering. Better than Wordsworth himself I know what Wordsworth meant when he said—Suffering is permanent, obscure, and dark, And has the nature of infinity.

But while there were times when I rejoiced in the idea that my sufferings were to be endless, I could not bear them to be without meaning. Now I find hidden away in my nature, like a treasure hidden in a field, is humility.

It is the last thing left in me, and the best, the ultimate discovery at which I have arrived, the starting point for a fresh development. It has come to me right out of myself, so I know that it has come at the proper time. It could not have come before, nor later. Had anyone told me of it, I would have rejected it. Had it been brought to me, I would have refused it.

As I found it, I wanted to keep it. I must do so. It is the one thing that has in it the elements of life, of a new life, a *Vita Nuova* for me. Of all things it is the strangest; one cannot give it away and another cannot give to one. One cannot acquire it except by surrendering everything that one has. It is only when one has lost all things, that one knows that one possesses it.

Now that I have realised that it is in me, I see quite clearly what I ought to do; in fact, must do. And when I use such a phrase as that, I need not say that I am not alluding to any external sanction or command. I admit none. I am far more of an individualist than I ever was. Nothing seems to me of the smallest value except what one gets out of oneself. My nature is seeking a fresh mode of self-realisation. That is all I am concerned with. And the first thing I have got to do is to free myself from any possible bitterness of feeling against the world.

Oscar Wilde *De Profundis*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Reconciliation

“What a different aspect will courage put upon the face of things.”

Henry David Thoreau

Living Zen

One day, in front of a large crowd on Vulture Peak Mountain in Northern India, the Buddha, instead of giving a discourse, simply held up a lotus flower without saying a word. All the onlookers stared at Him with incomprehension except one disciple, Kashyapa, who broke into a smile. For he alone had understood the Buddha's action: that it was a transmission of the truth, or dharma—a teaching without words, from mind to mind, from heart to heart.

Transmission of truth 'beyond words' was passed down through the centuries from master to disciple and is still recognized as one of the fundamental methods of Zen teaching. However, in Zen, the word translated into English as 'transmission' literally means 'being as one' - that is, being in spiritual harmony with one another. Consequently, the term implies more of a shared experience between teacher and student than the transference of the truth. For the Buddha stressed that the truth cannot simply be handed down from person to person. Instead, we must all find the truth for ourselves, inside our hearts.

Michael Paul

Seek for mankind that of which you are desirous for yourself, that you may be a believer; Treat well as a neighbour the one who lives near you, that you may be a Muslim. That which you want for yourself seek for mankind. The most righteous of men is the one who is glad that men should have what is pleasing to himself, and who dislikes for them what is for him disagreeable. Whatever you abhor for yourself, abhor it also for others, and whatever you desire for yourself desire also for others.

Attributed to Muhammad, *Sukhanan-i-Muhammad*

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 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.

Bahá'u'lláh *from the Bahá'í Writings*

MUSICAL FINALE

Please join us for refreshments