

*Gateway*

**Opening Music ~ Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

*The Gate of Nearness to God*

- ~ Bahá'u'lláh from Bahá'í Prayers
- ~ 'Abdul-Baha from Bahá'í Writings
- ~ Hindu, Mababharata
- ~ Confessions of St. Augustine Book 10
- ~ Bahá'u'lláh from the Bahá'í Writings

**Music ~ Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

*The Gate of Paradise*

- ~ Jewish Tehillim (Psalms)
- ~ 'Abdu'l-Baha from the Bahá'í Writings
- ~ Native American Meditation
- ~ Sheikh Muslih-uddin Sa'di Shiraz *The Gulistan of Sa'di*
- ~ Christian from Sermon on the Mount
- ~ Tao:Chuangtse

**Music Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

*The Gate of Service*

- ~ 'Abdul-Baha from Bahá'í Writings
- ~ Robert Bellah *Beyond Belief*
- ~ from *Random Acts of Kindness*
- ~ Bahá'u'lláh, from the Bahá'í Writings

**Musical Finale ~ Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

**OPENING MUSIC**  
**Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

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*The Gate of Nearness to God*

The White Hand shall cleave an opening to this somber night, and God will open into His city a gate.

*Baha'i Scriptures .*

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I know not, O my God, what the Fire is which Thou didst kindle in Thy land. Earth can never cloud its splendour, nor water quench its flame. All the peoples of the world are powerless to resist its force. Great is the blessedness of him that hath drawn nigh unto it, and heard its roaring.

Some, O my God, Thou didst, through Thy strengthening grace, enable to approach it, while others Thou didst keep back by reason of what their hands have wrought in Thy days. Whoso hath hastened towards it and attained unto it hath, in his eagerness to gaze on Thy beauty, yielded his life in Thy path, and ascended unto Thee, wholly detached from aught else except Thyself.

I beseech Thee, O my God, by this Fire which blazeth and rageth in the world of creation, to rend asunder the veils that have hindered me from appearing before the throne of Thy majesty, and from standing at the door of Thy gate. Do Thou ordain for me, O my Lord, every good thing Thou didst send down in Thy Book, and suffer me not to be far removed from the shelter of Thy mercy.

Powerful art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, the Most Generous

*Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í Prayers*

At the gate of the garden some stand and look within, but do not care to enter.

Others step inside, behold its beauty, but do not penetrate far.

Still others encircle this garden inhaling the fragrance of the flowers, having enjoyed its full beauty, pass out again by the same gate.

But there are always some who enter and becoming intoxicated with the splendour of what they behold, remain for life to tend the garden.

‘Abdu’l-Baha

These and other mighty warriors in the  
earthly battle slain,  
By their valour and their virtue walk the  
bright ethereal plain,  
They have cast their mortal bodies,  
crossed the radiant gate of heaven,  
For to win celestial mansions unto mortals  
it is given,  
Let them strive by kindly action, gentle  
speech, endurance long,  
Brighter life and holier future into sons of  
men belong!

Hindu, *Mababharata*

Not with doubting, but with assured consciousness,  
do I love Thee, Lord.  
Thou hast stricken my heart with Thy word,  
and I loved Thee.  
Yea also heaven,  
and earth,  
and all that therein is,  
behold, on every side they bid me love . . .  
But what do I love, when I love Thee?  
Not beauty of bodies,  
nor the fair harmony of time,  
nor the brightness of the light . . .  
None of these I love, when I love my God;  
and yet I love a kind of light, and melody, and fragrance, and  
meat,  
and embracement  
when I love my God, the light, melody, fragrance, meat,  
embracement of my inner man:  
where there shineth unto my soul what space cannot contain,  
and there soundeth what time beareth not away,  
and there smelleth what breathing disperseth not,  
and there tasteth what eating diminisheth not,  
and there clingeth what satiety divorceth not.  
This is it which I love when I love my God.

And what is this?  
I asked the earth, and it answered me, "I am not He";  
and whatsoever are in it confessed the same.  
I asked the sea and the deeps, and the living creeping things,  
and they answered, "We are not thy God, seek above us."  
I asked the moving air; and the whole air with his inhabitants answered,  
"Anaximenes was deceived, I am not God."  
I asked the heavens, sun, moon, stars,  
"Nor (say they) are we the God whom thou seekest."  
And I replied unto all the things which encompass the door of my flesh:  
"Ye have told me of my God, that ye are not He; tell me something of Him  
" And they cried out with a loud voice, "He made us."  
My questioning them, was my thoughts on them:  
and their form of beauty gave the answer.  
And I turned myself unto myself, and said to myself, "Who art thou?"  
And I answered, "A man."  
And behold, in me there present themselves to me soul, and body,  
one without, the other within.  
By which of these ought I to seek my God?  
I had sought Him in the body from earth to heaven,  
so far as I could send messengers, the beams of mine eyes.  
But the better is the inner, for to it as presiding and judging,  
all the bodily messengers reported the answers of heaven and earth,  
and all things therein, who said, "We are not God, but He made us."  
These things did my inner man know by the ministry of the outer:  
I the inner knew them;  
I, the mind, through the senses of my body.  
I asked the whole frame of the world about my God;  
and it answered me,  
"I am not He, but He made me.

*confessions of St Augustine*

O SON OF SPIRIT!

There is no peace for thee save by renouncing thyself and turning unto Me; for it behooveth thee to glory in My name, not in thine own; to put thy trust in Me and not in thyself, since I desire to be loved alone and above all that is.

O SON OF BEING!

My love is My stronghold; he that entereth therein is safe and secure, and he that turneth away shall surely stray and perish.

O SON OF UTTERANCE!

Thou art My stronghold; enter therein that thou mayest abide in safety. My love is in thee, know it, that thou mayest find Me near unto thee.

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

**MUSIC**  
**Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

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*The Gate to Paradise*

I invoke the bright, blissful Paradise of the Holy Ones

The Zend-Avesta, Avesta - Vendidad

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'O give thanks unto the LORD,  
for He is good,  
for His mercy endureth for ever.' . . .  
Out of my straits I called upon the LORD;  
He answered me with great enlargement.  
The LORD is for me;  
I will not fear; what can man do unto me?  
The LORD is for me as my helper . . .  
It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.  
It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes . . .  
The LORD is my strength and song;  
and He is become my salvation.  
The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;  
. . . I shall not die,  
but live, and declare the works of the LORD.  
The LORD hath chastened me sore;  
but He hath not given me over unto death.  
Open to me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter into them, I will give thanks unto the LORD.  
This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter into it.  
I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast answered me,  
and art become my salvation . . .  
This is the day which the LORD hath made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it . . .  
We beseech Thee, O LORD, make us now to prosper!  
Thou art my God, and I will give thanks unto Thee;  
Thou art my God, I will exalt Thee.  
O give thanks unto the LORD,  
for He is good,  
for His mercy endureth for ever.

*Tehillim (Psalms) )*

**O NOBLE** friends; seekers after God! Praise be to God! Today the light of Truth is shining upon the world in its abundance; the breezes of the heavenly garden are blowing throughout all regions; . . . The sea of the unity of mankind is lifting up its waves with joy, for there is real communication between the hearts and minds of men. The banner of the Holy Spirit is uplifted, and men see it, and are assured with the knowledge that this is a new day.

This is a new cycle of human power. All the horizons of the world are luminous, and the world will become indeed as a garden and a paradise. It is the hour of unity of the sons of men and of the drawing together of all races and all classes. You are loosed from ancient superstitions which have kept men ignorant, destroying the foundation of true humanity.

The gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind and of the fundamental oneness of religion. War shall cease between nations, and by the will of God the Most Great Peace shall come; the world will be seen as a new world, and all men will live as brothers.

In the days of old an instinct for warfare was developed in the struggle with wild animals; this is no longer necessary; nay, rather, co-operation and mutual understanding are seen to produce the greatest welfare of mankind. Enmity is now the result of prejudice only.

In the Hidden Words Bahá'u'lláh says, "Justice is to be loved above all." Praise be to God, in this country the standard of justice has been raised; a great effort is being made to give all souls an equal and a true place. This is the desire of all noble natures; this is today the teaching for the East and for the West; therefore the East and the West will understand each other and reverence each other, and embrace like long-parted lovers who have found each other.

There is one God; mankind is one; the foundations of religion are one. Let us worship Him, and give praise for all His great Prophets and Messengers who have manifested His brightness and glory.

*‘Abdu’l-Baha from the Bahá’í Writings*

O Great Spirit,  
Whose voice I hear in the winds  
Hear me!  
Let me walk in beauty,  
And make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have made  
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and  
rock.  
I seek strength,  
Not to be greater than my brother,  
But to fight my gretest enemy—myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and  
straight eyes.  
So when life fades,  
As the fading sunset,  
My spirit may come to you without shame.

Native American

The life of a king was drawing to a close and he had no successor. He ordered in his last testament that the next morning after his death the first person entering the gate of the city be presented with the royal crown and be entrusted with the government of the realm. It so happened that the first person who entered was a mendicant who had all his life subsisted on the morsels he collected and had sewn patch after patch upon his clothes. The pillars of the state and grandees of the court executed the injunction of the king and bestowed upon him the government and the treasures; whereon the dervish reigned for a while until some amirs of the monarchy withdrew their necks from his obedience and kings from every side began to rise and to prepare their armies for war. At last his own troops and subjects also rebelled and deprived him of a portion of his dominions. This event afflicted the mind of the dervish until one of his old friends, who had been his companion when he was yet himself a dervish, returned from a journey and, seeing him in such an exalted position, said: 'Thanks be to God the most high and glorious that thy rose has thus come forth from the thorn and thy thorn was extracted from thy foot. Thy high luck has aided thee and prosperity with fortune has guided thee till thou hast attained this position. Verily hardship is followed by comfort.' . . .

He replied: 'Brother, condole with me because there is no occasion for congratulation. When thou sawest me last, I was distressed for bread and now a world of distress has overwhelmed me.' If I have no wealth I grieve. If I have some the love of it captivates me. There is no greater calamity than worldly goods. Both their possession and their want are griefs.

If thou wishest for power, covet nothing Except contentment which is sufficient happiness. If a rich man pours gold into thy lap Care not a moment for thanking him. Because often I heard great men say The patience of a dervish is better than the gift of a rich man.

The Gulistan of Sa'di  
by Sheikh Muslih-uddin Sa'di Shirazi (1258)

AND seeing the multitudes,  
He went up into a mountain:  
And when he was set,  
His disciples came unto him:  
And he opened his mouth,  
And taught them,  
Saying, . . .

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:

For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:

For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:

For they shall be called the children of God.

Let your light so shine before men,  
That they may see your good works,  
And glorify your Father which is in heaven.

*from Sermon on the Mount*

"A man,"  
said Confucius, "does not seek to see himself in  
running water, but in still water. For only what is itself still can in-  
still stillness into others. The grace of earth has reached only the  
pines and cedars; winter and summer alike, they are green. The  
grace of God has reached to Yao and to Shun, who alone attained  
rectitude. Happily he was able to rectify himself and thus become  
the means through which all were  
rectified. For the possession of one's original (nature) is evidenced  
in true courage. A man will, single-handed, brave a whole army.  
And if such a result can be achieved by one in search of fame  
through self control, how much greater courage can be shown by  
one who extends his sway over heaven and earth and gives shelter  
to all things, who, lodging temporarily within the confines of a  
body with contempt for the superficialities of sight and sound,  
brings his  
knowledge to level all knowledge and whose mind never dies! Be-  
sides, he (Wang T'ai) is only awaiting his appointed hour to go up  
to Heaven. Men indeed flock to him of their own accord. How can  
he take  
seriously the affairs of this world?"

*Tao:Chuangtse*

**MUSIC**  
**Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

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*The Gate of Service*

Sweeter than the perfume of sandalwood or of the lotus flower is the perfume of virtue.

*Buddhist Writing*

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There is no greater result than bonds of service in the Divine kingdom and attainment to the good-pleasure of the Lord.

Therefore I desire that your hearts may be directed to the kingdom of God, that your intentions may be pure and sincere, your purposes turned toward altruistic accomplishment unmindful of your own welfare; nay rather, may all your intentions centre in the welfare of humanity, and may you seek to sacrifice yourselves in the pathway of devotion to mankind.

‘Abdu’l-Baha

We may be seeing the beginnings of the reintegration of our culture, a new possibility of the unity of consciousness. If so it will not be on the basis of any new orthodoxy, either religious or scientific. Such a new integration will be based on the rejection of all univocal understanding of reality, of all identifications of one conception of reality with reality itself. It will recognise the multiplicity of the human spirit, and the necessity to translate constantly between different scientific and imaginative vocabularies. It will recognize the human proclivity to fall comfortably into some single literal interpretation of the world and therefore the necessity to be continuously open to rebirth in a new heaven and a new earth. It will recognize that in both scientific and religious culture all we have finally are symbols, but that there is an enormous difference between the dead letter and the living word.

Robert Bellah *Beyond Belief*

My girlfriend and I are avid backpackers. I can't even describe the feeling I get after we lock up the car and hit the trail, and every step is one step farther into the hills and one step farther away from all the crazy stuff that goes on in the world. In my mind it is such a different reality once we are on the trail, and I guess that is why I always put all my "worldly" things in a small green zip-up bag and stuff it away in a corner of my backpack. I mean everything - my wallet, with all my ID, credit cards, license, etc., all my money, my keys - everything that is irrelevant back in the woods.

This particular trip was a five-day trek through some of the most beautiful parts of the Cascades. As we headed back down toward the parking area where we had left the car, I was really sad to be leaving what to me was such a simple and beautiful way of living. I could just feel the tension and anxiety beginning to creep back into my body as we got closer and closer to civilization. When we finally got to the car there was a small piece of paper tucked under the windshield-wiper blade that read, "left rear tire." I walked back and looked at the left rear tire but it was fine. The note made no sense to me at all - three seconds back into the world and already lunacy. Then I started fishing through my backpack for my green bag. It wasn't there. I looked back at the left rear tire - there was the bag. I have no idea when I lost it, I have no idea who found it, or how they ever found my car amid all the possible parking places in that part of the Cascades. My keys, my wallet, nearly \$100 in cash, all neatly tucked in my zip-up green bag sitting on top of my left rear tire. Thank you, whoever you are, you gave me back much more than you know.

*from Random Acts of Kindness*

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.  
Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour,  
and look upon him with a bright and friendly face.  
Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich,  
an answerer to the cry of the needy,  
a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge.  
Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech.  
Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men.  
Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness,  
a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty,  
a haven for the distressed,  
an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression.  
Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts.  
Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering,  
a tower of strength for the fugitive.  
Be eyes to the blind,  
and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.  
Be an ornament to the countenance of truth,  
a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness,  
a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice,  
a luminary above the horizon of virtue,  
a dew to the soil of the human heart,  
an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty,  
a gem on the diadem of wisdom,  
a shining light in the firmament of thy generation,  
a fruit upon the tree of humility.  
We pray God  
to protect thee from the heat of jealousy and the cold of hatred.  
He verily is nigh, ready to answer

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

**MUSICAL FINALE**  
**Alain Valadoze & Mike Bevan**

*Please join us for refreshments*

**Please join us for refreshments after the program**