

Universal Peace Prayers



This book of Peace Prayers was first presented at an historic event on 12th November 2016 at the United Reformed Church, Southernhay, Exeter. It represents a milestone in the way people of different faiths and beliefs can come together as fellow citizens of Planet Earth.

Here is the foreword given by Ravindra J. Nathwani

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Former Vice-Chair Devon Faith and Belief Forum

It gives me much pleasure to present this work of Universal Peace Prayers, which has come to life after several years of efforts to be united and pray in our own traditions in one house of God.

It is also important that this Universal Peace Prayer took place at the beginning of Interfaith Week and now it is going to be an annual event in Exeter.

I am sure the humble effort to publish this booklet will be appreciated by all those who make use of it.

I would like to thank everyone who came and contributed readings, prayers, music and also all my dear friends who have been so encouraging and helped directly and indirectly for which I remain indebted.

All possible care has been taken in selecting the texts included in this booklet and any errors and omissions are not intentional.

LETS US PRAY TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF

VASUDEVAM KUTUMBH KUM

MEANING *THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY*

OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI

Acknowledgement

This second edition of Universal Peace Prayer book is being published in the middle of the unprecedented Covid19 pandemic.

Our first edition was well received by Devon Schools, Colleges, Universities, Places of Worship, NHS Hospitals and Hospices around UK. It also reached in other parts of the world including India, America, Canada, Africa and Singapore.

In view of this success it was decided to print more copies in 2020.

It is my privilege to have the support of Devon Faith and Belief Forum to be able to make this happen. Special thanks to my friend and associate Ed Pawson for his assistance in the re-editing process.

Ravi Nathwani



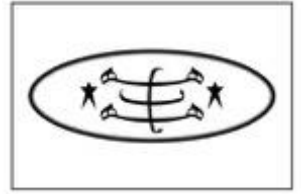
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Baha`i tradition



O Thou kind Lord! Thou has created all humanity from the same stock. Thou has decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy holy presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy table of bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the ocean of Thy mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

Oh God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.
Oh God! Establish the most great peace.
Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the light of Thy guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy word, and shelter us all in the stronghold of Thy providence.

Thou art the mighty and powerful. Thou art the forgiving and
Thou art the one who over-looketh the shortcomings of all
mankind.

The [Bahá'í Faith](#) is the youngest of the world's main religions and was founded in the Middle East in the 19th century by Mirza Husayn-Ali Nuri, known as Bahá'u'lláh.



Buddhist tradition



May all beings live in security and in peace. Whether frail or strong, big or small, visible or not visible, near or far, already born or yet to be born - may all beings dwell in tranquillity.

Let no one do harm. Let no one put the life of anyone in danger. Let no one, out of anger or ill-will, wish harm to others. Listen carefully. Speak kindly.

Just as a mother loves and protects her only child, so we should cultivate friendship and kinship with all beings. Let our friendliness pervade the whole universe. Let our kindness know no bounds.

At all times we should be aware of how inter-connected we are and of how each of us merits respect and care. Being mindful of the interwoven nature of all things, and of the brevity of each life, let us treat everyone as our friend.

Letting go of our fear, anger, prejudice and intolerance, let us find that beauty is everywhere and that every life is a precious gift. At peace with ourselves let us be at peace with the world.

A modern variation on a passage from the Metta Sutta – a talk given by the Buddha to a gathering of his students

Buddhism is founded upon the teaching of Siddattha Gotama/ Siddhartha Gautama. He was born about two thousand five hundred years ago in north eastern India and is said to have discovered the Dhamma/Dharma (truth or teaching). In its various forms, Buddhism is a worldwide religion with over 360 million adherents which is about 6% of the world's population.



Christian Tradition



A Christian Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow charity;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and
Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to
console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal
life.

Amen.

St Francis of Assisi

The [Christian faith](#) is founded upon the life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth who was born about two thousand years ago in Palestine. Christianity is a worldwide religion with over 2,000 million adherents (about 32% of the world's population).



Hindu tradition



OM Bhur Bhuvah Svah
Tat Savitur Varenyam
Bhargodevasya dhi mahi
Dhiyo yonah pracho dayat

OM - Let the earth, the entire world and the heaven be enlightened by the brilliant supreme light of Lord Sun and inspire our intellect.

OM Asatoma sadgamaya
Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya
Mrutyorma Amrutamgamaya

OM - Lead us from falsity to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality.

Dhyo shanti antrix shanti, Pruthvi shanti, aap shanti,
Aushdhay shanti, Vanashpatay shanti, Vishvedeva shanti, Brahma
shanti, Sarve shanti, shanti rev, shanti Sama, shanti redhi
OM shanti shanti shanti

May there be peace in heaven, may there be peace in the sky. May there be peace on earth, may there be peace in the waters. May there be peace in the herbs, may there be peace in all the vegetation, may there be peace in all religions. May the entire Universe (Brahma), all the phenomena of the past and present attain peace. May there be peace in all the nations and all the people. In all, may that peace be the real and everlasting peace in the whole world.

OM - PEACE PEACE PEACE

The [Hindu tradition](#) is one of the world's most ancient belief systems, developing over many centuries in India. The term Hinduism derives from the name of the ancient river Sindhu in India, but many Hindus refer to the religion using the Sanskrit name Sanatan Dharma, meaning eternal duty. Just like the river, Hinduism is vast, fluid and versatile. There is not just one founder, but thousands throughout the ages who continually refresh the message of spirituality to meet contemporary needs. It has over 828 million adherents (about 13% of the world's population).



Humanist Tradition



Happiness is the only good.
The time to be happy is now.
The place to be happy is here.
The way to be happy is to make others so.

Robert Green Ingersoll (19th century Humanist)

Treat others as we would want them to treat us in their position;
do not treat others in ways we would not want to be treated
ourselves in their position.



[Humanism](#) is not a religion. It is a non-religious, ethical worldview, concerned with some of the same concepts as religions, but generally derived from secular ideas and considerations that have affected and influenced the lives of people, particularly since the Enlightenment. Humanism is a worldwide phenomenon although it is most often associated with the post-Christian trends of the 20th century in Europe and the developed nations. It has arguably somewhere in the region of 150 million active adherents (about 2% of the world's population).



Islamic Tradition

An Islamic Prayer for Peace



In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful: Praise be to
the Lord of the Universe
who has created us and made us into tribes and nations that we
may know each other,
not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards
peace, and trust in God,
for the Lord is one that hears and knows all things.

And the servants of God Most Gracious are those who walk on
the Earth in humility,
and when we address them, we say, "Peace."

U.N. Day of Prayer for World Peace

Oh God, You Are Peace

Oh God,
You are peace.
From You comes peace, to You returns peace.
Revive us with a salutation of peace,
and lead us to Your abode of peace.

Prophet Muhammad pbuh

The word [Islam](#) is derived from the Arabic root 'salima' which means peace, harmony and submission. Islam, referring to the religion, is the submission of the creation to the will of God and its co-existence in peace and harmony. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) began to receive the last and final revelation from Allah in the year 610 CE (Allah is the Arabic word for God). Over a 23 year period, the revelation was received and recorded in the form of the Qur'an. Today, Islam is a worldwide religion with over 1,220 million adherents (about 19% of the world's population).



Jain Tradition



Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all Enlightened Ones.

The Lord has preached that being calm and composed is the Dharma.

Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.

Unto all have I friendship, and unto none am I an enemy.

Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world.

Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage.

"Do not injure any living being." This is the eternal, constant and unalterable way of spiritual life.

A weapon, however powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can, however, be superior to non-violence and love.

[Jainism](#) is one of the oldest religions of the world, based on the philosophy of Ahimsa or reverence for all living beings. Jains are widely acknowledged as having made major contributions to the art, literature and culture of India and have been vegetarians for thousands of years. The last prophet was Mahavira, or the Great Hero, who lived in 559BCE. Jainism originated in India and has spread throughout the world. There are Jain temples in a number of places in the UK including London, Leicester and Manchester. Worldwide there are about seven million adherents.



Jewish Tradition



"Lord of Peace, Divine Ruler, to whom
peace belongs.

Master of Peace, Creator of all things.

May it be thy will to put an end to war and bloodshed on earth, and to
spread a great and wonderful peace over the whole world, so that
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn
war anymore.

Help us and save us all, and let us cling tightly to the virtue of peace.
Let there be a truly great peace between every person and their fellow,
and between husband and wife, and let there be no discord between
people even in their hearts.

Let us never shame any person on earth, great or small. May it be
granted unto us to fulfill Thy Commandment to 'Love thy neighbour
as thyself,' with all our hearts and souls and bodies and possessions.

God who is peace, bless us with peace."

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, 1773-1810

[Judaism](#) is one of the three Abrahamic faiths deriving from the near middle east about four thousand years ago. Judaism traces its roots to Abraham and its laws to Moses. It is a worldwide religion with over 15 million adherents.



Quaker tradition



A Universal Prayer of Peace for all Faiths

Lead us from Death to Life,
from Falsehood to Truth.

Lead us from Despair to Hope,
from fear to Trust

Lead us from Hate to Love,
from War to Peace.

Let Peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Peace, Peace, Peace

Adapted from the Hindu Upanishads by Satish Kumar

[Quakerism](#) is almost 400 years old. It is the common name for the Religious Society of Friends. Quaker beliefs and practices grew out of Christianity and today Quakers also find meaning and value in other faiths and traditions. They believe that there is "that of God in everyone", recognising that there's something precious in every person. There are about 350,000 Quakers worldwide.



Romani Old Faith; phuro pachipen



Bàxteradi Devie, kon kerdian o sviato,
tuke màngava te rakhesa tiri chavi/tiro chavo,
te piresa mansar e dromeske,
tha sàrkana te achesa mansar.

Tha pàlunes, kana avela i ora kana me shom te meravava,
te tardesa mande perdal o meripen
konyipenesar tha bi dukhipenester,
tala te anesa mande rakhles 'dre miro nevo jivipen.
Akha te avela!

Blessed Goddess, who created the world,
I pray to you to protect your daughter/your son,
to travel with me on the road,
and to always stay with me.
And at the end, when the time comes for me to die,
guide me through death
in peace and without pain,
then bring me safely to my next life.
So let it be!

The [Roma](#) are an ethnic people who have migrated across Europe for a thousand years. The Roma culture has a rich oral tradition, with an emphasis on family. Often portrayed as exotic and strange, the Roma have faced discrimination and persecution for centuries. Today, they are one of the largest ethnic minorities in Europe — about 12 million to 15 million people, according to UNICEF, with 70 percent of them living in Eastern Europe.



Shinto Tradition



Shinto Prayer for Peace

Although the people living
across the ocean
surrounding us, I believe,
are all our brothers and sisters,
why are there constant troubles in
this world?

Why do winds and waves rise in the
ocean surrounding us?

I only earnestly wish that the wind will
soon puff away all the clouds which are
hanging over the tops of the mountains.

[Shinto](#) is deeply rooted in the Japanese people and traditions. It is sometimes regarded as Japan's indigenous religion. It does not have a founder nor does it have sacred scriptures like the sutras or the Bible. "Shinto gods" are called kami. They are sacred spirits which take the form of things and concepts important to life, such as wind, rain, mountains, trees, rivers and fertility. Humans become kami after they die and are revered by their families as ancestral kami. Belief in kami can be traced back to 350BCE.



Sikh tradition



May peace be your virtue,
May peace be your property,
May peace be your prayer.

May you bring peace to all those you meet, you talk to,
you live with.

May you even bring peace to the person you hate, your
enemy.

May your friends enjoy your peaceful disposition and may
your enemies enjoy your peaceful opposition.

May this world be based on one word: peace.

As God has shredded Himself into all souls and piece by
piece we get together into this beautiful world.

May in our hearts we pray this day for world peace.

Sat Nam

Taken from a blog of Sikh Dharma International

[Sikhism](#) was founded in the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent in the late 15th century. Its members are known as Sikhs. The Sikhs call their faith Gurmat (Punjabi: “the Way of the Guru”). According to Sikh tradition, Sikhism was established by Guru Nanak (1469–1539) and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus. In the early 21st century there were nearly 25 million Sikhs worldwide, the great majority of them living in the Indian state of Punjab.



Taoist Tradition

Prayer for Peace



If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

Lao-Tse

[Taoism](#) originated in China 2000 years ago. It is an ancient tradition of philosophy and religious belief that is deeply rooted in Chinese customs and worldview. Taoist ideas have become popular throughout the world through Tai Chi Chuan, Qigong, and various martial arts. It is a religion of unity and opposites; Yin and Yang. The principle of Yin Yang sees the world as filled with complementary forces - action and non-action, light and dark, hot and cold, and so on.



Zoroastrian tradition



Ashen Vohu.
Ashen Vohu,
Vahishtem Asti,
Ushta Asti,
Ushta Ahmai
Yadai Ashai,
Vahistai ashen.

Yaytha Ahu Vairyo.
Yaytha Ahu Vairyo,yatha ratush,
Yatha achit,yatha vangheush,
Dazda manangho,shyaothnanam,
Angheush Mazda,
Khshathremcha Ahurai a yim dregubyo dadat vastarem.

Purity is good,
It is the best,
It is happiness,
Happiness to him who is pure, for the sake of best purity.

Just as good is to admire, so the prophet on account of his righteousness, the benefit of the good mind is for those who work in the world in the name of God, i.e. selflessly, that man develops the moral courage of AHURA who helps the poor fellow beings.

Asha means the truth and the main tenant is Good thoughts, Good words and Good deeds is the path of truth (Asha).

[Zoroastrianism](#) was founded by Zarathustra in Persia between 1500-1200BCE. Only a few thousand Zoroastrians remain in Iran today, with others now living in India, Canada, the USA, and the UK. The total number of adherents worldwide is about 200,000. The central belief of Zoroastrianism is that God, Ahura Mazda (The Wise Lord), is all good and he created the world which is therefore also good. All misery, disease, suffering and death are the assault of the evil one, Angra Mainyu. The history of the world is the arena for the conflict of good and evil.



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