

## The Bahá'ís of Florence, OR ☩ Inter-Faith Devotional Service



### “THE NAMES OF GOD”

#### **HINDUISM**

##### ***Mundaka Upanishad 3.1.7***

Brahman shines forth, vast, self-luminous, inconceivable, subtler than the subtle. He is far beyond what is far, and yet here very near at hand. Verily, He is seen here, dwelling in the cave of the heart of conscious beings.

##### ***Bhagavad-Gita 10.39~41***

I am the nucleus of every creature, Arjuna; for without Me nothing can exist, neither animate nor inanimate... Wherever you find strength, or beauty, or spiritual power, you may be sure that these have sprung from a spark of My essence.

##### ***Bhagavad-Gita 18.55***

To love is to know Me, My innermost nature, the truth that I am.

##### ***Mundaka Upanishad 3.1.8***

Eye cannot see Him, nor words reveal Him; by the senses, austerity, or works He is not known. When the mind is cleansed by the grace of wisdom, He is seen by contemplation - the One without parts.

##### ***Isha Upanishad 15~16***

The door of the Truth is covered by a golden disc. Open it, O Nourisher! Remove it so that I who have been worshipping the Truth may behold It. O Nourisher, lone Traveller of the sky! Controller! O Sun, offspring of Prajapati! Gather your rays; withdraw your light. I would see, through your grace, that form of yours which is the fairest. He, that Person who dwells there, is I myself!

##### ***Atharva Veda 10.8.31***

Known by the name of Protectress is the Goddess girt by Eternal Law; by her beauty are these trees green and have put on their green garlands.

##### ***Atharva Veda 4.16***

The great Ruler of all these worlds, beholds as if from near at hand the man who thinks he acts by stealth: the Gods know all this of him. When one stands or walks or moves in secret, or goes to his lying down or uprising, when two sitting together take secret counsel, King Varuna knows, being there the Third. ...Varuna is that which is the warp, Varuna is that which is the woof, Varuna is of our own land, he is of foreign lands. Varuna is transcendent, he is immanent.

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## **Buddhism**

### ***Gandavyuha Sutra***

The Great Compassionate Heart is the essence of Buddhahood.

### ***Udana 80***

There is, monks, a condition where there is neither the element of extension, the element of cohesion, the element of heat, nor the element of motion, nor the sphere of the infinity of consciousness, nor the sphere of nothingness, nor the sphere of neither-perception-nor-non-perception; neither this world, nor a world beyond, nor sun and moon.

There, monks, I say, there is neither coming nor going nor staying nor passing away nor arising. Without support or mobility or basis is it. This is indeed the end of suffering.

That which is Selfless, hard it is to see; not easy is it to perceive the Truth. But who has ended craving utterly has naught to cling to, he alone can see.

There is, monks, an unborn, a not-become, a not-made, a not-compounded. If, monks, there were not this unborn, not-become, not-made, not compounded, there would not here be an escape from the born, the become, the made, the compounded. But because there is an unborn, a not-become, a not-

made, a not-compounded, therefore there is an escape from the born, the become, the made, the compounded.

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## **Judaism**

### ***Isaiah 57.15***

For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

### ***Talmud, Sukka 53a***

"If I [God] am there, all are there, and if I am not there, who is there?" Hillel also used to say, "To the place where I wish to be, there do my feet bring me. If you come to my house, I will come to your house; if you do not come to my house, I will not come to your house. As it says, In all places where I cause my Name to be mentioned, I will come to you and bless you."

### ***Midrash Psalm 25.4***

Moses said to God, "Show me now Thy ways" . And He showed them to him, as it is said, "He made known His ways unto Moses" Then Moses said, "Show me now Thy glory", that is, "the attributes wherewith Thou governest the world." Then God said, "You cannot comprehend My attributes."

**Psalm 19.1~4**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, neither is their voice heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

**Isaiah 46.9~11**

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose," calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.



**Christianity**

**Acts 17.27 ~28**

[God] is not far from each one of us, for "in Him we live and move and have our being."

**Romans 1.19~20**

For what can be known about God is plain to [all], because God has showed it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.



**Islam**

**Qur'án 26.77~82**

The Lord and the Cherisher of the Worlds- Who created me, and it is He who guides me; Who gives me food and drink, and when I am ill, it is He who cures me; Who will cause me to die, and then to live again; and Who, I hope, will forgive me my faults on the Day of Judgment.

**Qur'án 7.156**

My mercy embraces all things.

**Qur'án 24.35**

God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche; and within it a Lamp; the Lamp enclosed in Glass; the glass as it were a brilliant star; lit from a blessed Tree, an Olive neither of the East nor the West, whose oil is well-nigh luminous, though fire scarce touched it. Light upon Light! God guides whom He will to His Light: God sets forth parables for men, and God knows all things.

***Qur'án 50.16***

We indeed created man; and We know what his soul whispers within him, and We are nearer to him than the jugular vein.

***Qur'án 2.117***

The Creator of the heavens and the earth; and when He decrees a thing, He but says to it "Be", and it is.

***Hadith***

I asked the Messenger of God, "Did you see your Lord?" He said, "He is a Light; how could I see Him?"

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Verily, there exist seventy thousand veils of light and darkness before God. If He were to lift them, the light of the Majesty of His countenance would consume all of creation within sight.



**Bábí Faith**

***Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 125***

If thou art sailing upon the sea of God's Names, which are reflected in all things, know thou that He is exalted and sanctified from being known through His creatures, or being described by His servants. Everything thou beholdest hath been called into being through the operation of His Will. How can such a

created thing, therefore, be indicative of His essential oneness? God's existence in itself testifieth to His Own oneness, while every created thing, by its very nature, beareth evidence that it hath been fashioned by God. Such is the proof of consummate wisdom in the estimation of those who sail the ocean of divine Truth.

***Selections ... p. 156***

The glory of Him Whom God shall make manifest is immeasurably above every other glory, and His majesty is far above every other majesty. His beauty excelleth every other embodiment of beauty, and His grandeur immensely exceedeth every other manifestation of grandeur. Every light paleth before the radiance of His light, and every other exponent of mercy falleth short before the tokens of His mercy. Every other perfection is as naught in face of His consummate perfection, and every other display of might is as nothing before His absolute might. His names are superior to all other names. His good-pleasure taketh precedence over any other expression of good-pleasure. His pre-eminent exaltation is far above the reach of every other symbol of exaltation. The splendour of His appearance far surpasseth that of any other appearance. His divine concealment is far more profound than any other concealment. His loftiness is immeasurably above every other loftiness. His gracious

favour is unequalled by any other evidence of favour. His power transcendeth every power. His sovereignty is invincible in the face of every other sovereignty. His celestial dominion is exalted far above every other dominion. His knowledge pervadeth all created things, and His consummate power extendeth over all beings.

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## **Bahá'i Faith**

*The Kitáb-i-Iqán, pp. 142-143*

These Prophets and chosen Ones of God are the recipients and revealers of all the unchangeable attributes and names of God. They are the mirrors that truly and faithfully reflect the light of God. Whatsoever is applicable to them is in reality applicable to God, Himself, Who is both the Visible and the Invisible. The knowledge of Him, Who is the Origin of all things, and attainment unto Him, are impossible save through knowledge of, and attainment unto, these luminous Beings who proceed from the Sun of Truth. By attaining, therefore, to the presence of these holy Luminaries, the "Presence of God" Himself is attained. From their knowledge, the knowledge of God is revealed, and from the light of their countenance, the splendour of the Face of God is made manifest. Through the manifold

attributes of these Essences of Detachment, Who are both the first and the last, the seen and the hidden, it is made evident that He Who is the Sun of Truth is "the First and the Last, the Seen, and the Hidden."(1) Likewise the other lofty names and exalted attributes of God. Therefore, whosoever, and in whatever Dispensation, hath recognized and attained unto the presence of these glorious, these resplendent and most excellent Luminaries, hath verily attained unto the "Presence of God" Himself, and entered the city of eternal and immortal life. Attainment unto such presence is possible only in the Day of Resurrection, which is the Day of the rise of God Himself through His all-embracing Revelation.

### ***Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh (Persian #31)***

O Son Of Earth! Wouldst thou have Me, seek none other than Me; and wouldst thou gaze upon My beauty, close thine eyes to the world and all that is therein; for My will and the will of another than Me, even as fire and water, cannot dwell together in one heart.

### ***Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh (Persian #32)***

O Befriended Stranger! The candle of thine heart is lighted by the hand of My power, quench it not with the contrary winds of self and passion. The healer of all thine ills is

remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My love thy treasure and cherish it even as thy very sight and life.

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### Prayer

O Thou, at Whose dreadful majesty all things have trembled, in Whose grasp are the affairs of all men, towards Whose grace and mercy are set the faces of all Thy creatures! I entreat Thee, by Thy Name which Thou hast ordained to be the spirit of all names that are in the kingdom of names, to shield us from the whisperings of those who have turned away from Thee, and have repudiated the truth of Thy most august and most exalted Self, in this Revelation that hath caused the kingdom of Thy names to tremble.

I am one of Thy handmaidens, O my Lord! I have turned my face towards the sanctuary of Thy gracious favors and the adored tabernacle of Thy glory. Purify me of all that is not of Thee, and strengthen me to love Thee and to fulfill

Thy pleasure, that I may delight myself in the contemplation of Thy beauty, and be rid of all attachment to any of Thy creatures, and may, at every moment, proclaim: "Magnified be God, the Lord of the worlds!"

Let my food, O my Lord, be Thy beauty, and my drink the light of Thy presence, and my hope Thy pleasure, and my work Thy praise, and my companion Thy remembrance, and my aid Thy sovereignty, and my dwelling-place Thy habitation, and my home the seat which Thou hast exalted above the limitations of them that are shut out as by a veil from Thee.

Thou art, in truth, the God of power, of strength and glory.

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