

Devotional Readings- February 21, 2021 Creating Vibrant Communities Event



From the Baha'i Writings:

O SON OF SPIRIT!

The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee.

By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor.

Ponder this in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be. Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of

My loving-kindness. Set it then before thine eyes.

—*Bahá'u'lláh, Hidden Words*

From Hinduism:

Whenever there is a decline in righteousness and an increase in unrighteousness, O Arjun, at that time I manifest myself on earth and descend in the world to destroy the wicked, protect the righteous and establish dharm. I am born in the age of era.

—*Shree Krishna*

From Sikh Scriptures:

The Lord pervades and permeates the water, the land and the sky; there is no other at all.

The Lord Himself sits upon His Throne and administers justice. He beats and drives out the false-hearted.

The Lord bestows glorious greatness upon those who are truthful. He administers righteous justice.

So praise the Lord, everybody; He protects the poor and the lost souls.

He honors the righteous and punishes the sinners.

....

O Lord, You are inside and outside as well. You are the knower of secrets.

Whatever anyone does, the Lord knows. O my mind, think of the Lord.

The one who commits sins lives in fear, while the one who lives righteously rejoices.

O Lord, You Yourself are True, and True is Your Justice. Why should anyone be afraid?

—*Guru Grant Sahib*

Readings from the Old Testament (Judaism):

Inspire us to become *rodfei tzedek*, pursuers of justice, in our lives and in our communities.

Give us the strength to resist power wielded with fear and dread;
fill us with the vision and purpose to build a power yet greater,
a power rooted in solidarity, liberation and love.
Grant us the courage to dismantle systems of oppression – and when they are no more,
let us dedicate our wealth and resources toward the well-being of all.
May we abolish all forms of state violence that we might make way for a world free of racism
and militarization,
a world where no one profits off the misery of others, a world where the bills owed those who
have been
colonized, enslaved and dispossessed are finally paid in full.
Inspire us with the knowledge that real justice is indeed at hand, that we may realize
the world we know is possible, right here, right now, in our own day.
May our thoughts and our hopes, our words and our deeds guide us toward a future of reparation,
of restoration, of justice,
al kol yoshvei teivel, for all who dwell on earth, amen.
—*Isaiah 43:18-19*

Readings from the Christian Tradition :

Father, you have given all peoples one common origin.
It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself.
Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to insure justice for all.
By sharing the good things
you give us.
may we share an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.
May there be an end to division, strife and war.
May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace.
We ask this in your name. Amen.
— *Catholic Prayers*

Readings from the Quran (Islam):

In the name of God, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful
By the time.
Verily! Man is in loss,
Except those who believe, and do righteous good deeds
and recommend one another to the truth
and recommend one another to patience.
—*Surah Al-Asr*

Readings from the Baha'i Writings:

The One true God beareth Me witness, and His creatures will testify, that not for a moment did I
allow
Myself to be hidden from the eyes of men, nor did I consent to shield My person from their
injury.

Before the face of all men I have arisen, and bidden them fulfil My pleasure. My object is none other than the betterment of the world and the tranquility of its peoples. The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established.

—*Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings From the Writing of Bahá'u'lláh*

