

# WORSHIP

## *Prayer, Religion and Symbolism*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 6450 Prayer is the contemplation of the facts of life  
from the highest point of view.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6451 Prayer is the spirit speaking truth to Truth.  
Bailey (1816-1902)
- 6452 Superstition is...religion which has grown incongruous with  
intelligence.  
John Tyndall (1820-1893)
- 6453 All religions are therapies for the sorrows and disorders of  
the soul.  
C. G. Jung (1875-1961)
- 6454 Religion is essentially the art and the theory of the  
remaking of man. Man is not a finished creation.  
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 6455 Religion is the intellectual resolution of the unknown.  
Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 6456 The gods are the creations of the created. They are not  
emanations of The Eternal. They are made by the adoration  
of their worshippers. It is not the gods that do the work  
of creation. This is done by the great natural forces  
working each according to its nature; the gods come into  
their procession after the egg of manifestation has been  
laid in the darkness of the cosmic night.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 6457 He who pursues learning will increase every day;  
He who pursues The Eternal will decrease every day.  
He will decrease and continue to decrease,  
Till he comes at non-action;  
By non-action everything can be done.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 6458 Trouble and perplexity drive me to prayer,  
and prayer drives away perplexity and trouble.  
Philip Melancthon (1497-1560)

- 6459 My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:  
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6460 Heaven is never deaf but when man's heart is dumb.  
Quarles (1592-1644)
- 6461 Religion is the best armor in the world,  
but the worst cloak.  
John Bunyan (1628-1688)
- 6462 In prayer it is better to have a heart without words,  
than words without a heart.  
John Bunyan (1628-1688)
- 6463 Religion is too often talked of, but too little known.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 6464 In religion as in friendship,  
they who profess most are ever the least sincere.  
Richard Sheridan (1751-1816)
- 6465 In earlier religions the spirit of the time was expressed  
through the individual and confirmed by miracles.  
In modern religions the spirit is expressed through the many  
and confirmed by reason.  
Heine (1797-1856)
- 6466 Prayer does not change God, but changes him who prays.  
Kierkegaard (1813-1855)
- 6467 The hands and feet of the man of God are nailed on earth  
and free in the heavens.  
The hands and feet of most are free on earth  
and nailed in the heavens.  
Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927)

### 3. INSIGHT

- 6468 Devotion is love for something higher than ourselves;  
something that evokes our idealism;  
which, while we despair becoming equal to it,  
yet makes us aspire to become like it.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 6469 Not by speech, not by mind,  
Not by sight can He be apprehended.  
How can He be comprehended  
Otherwise than by one's saying "He is"?...  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

- 6470 The greatest prayer is patience.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6471 Prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to heaven,  
and meditation the eye wherewith we see God.  
Ambrose (340-397 A.D.)
- 6472 Mystical union consists in this: That you reduce yourself  
to your unity in proclaiming the unity of God - and thus God  
makes you the witness of yourself.  
al-Hallaj (c. 858-922 A.D.)
- 6473 It is God whom every lover loves in every beloved.  
Ibn Al-'Arabi (1165-1240)
- 6474 The fewer words the better prayer.  
Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- 6475 Any system of religion that has anything in it that shocks  
the mind of a child, cannot be a true system.  
Paine (1737-1809)
- 6476 Prayer is to religion what thinking is to philosophy.  
To pray is to make religion.  
Novalis (1772-1801)
- 6477 There is but one temple in the universe, and that is the  
body of man. Nothing is holier than that high form...We  
touch heaven when we lay our hand on a human body...We are  
the miracle of miracles, - the great inscrutable Mystery.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6478 Symbols were the almost universal language of ancient  
theology. They were the most obvious method of instruction;  
for, like nature herself, they addressed the understanding  
through the eye...  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 6479 A prayer, in its simplest definition, is merely a wish  
turned heavenward.  
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
- 6480 As one can ascend to the top of a house  
by means of a ladder or a tree or a staircase or a rope,  
so diverse are the ways and means to approach God,  
and every religion in the world shows one of these ways.  
Ramakrishna (1836-1886)

- 6481 Every name of God and each attribute are but shadows of the Reality, limited manifestations of the Limitless, as time is an attribute of Eternity, mind an attribute of Consciousness, flame an attribute of Fire.  
C. Spurgeon Medhurst (born 1850?)
- 6482 Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity...It is not only worship; it is also an invisible emanation of man's worshipping spirit - the most powerful form of energy that one can generate.  
Alexis Carrel (1873-1944)
- 6483 Every real religion, that is, one that has been created by learned people for a definite aim, consists of two parts.  
One part teaches what is to be done. This part becomes common knowledge and in the course of time is distorted and departs from the original.  
The other part teaches how to do what the first part teaches. This part is preserved in secret in special schools and with its help it is always possible to rectify what has been distorted in the first part or to restore what has been forgotten.  
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)
- 6484 The unconscious can be reached and expressed only by symbols, which is the reason why the process of individuation can never do without the symbol. The symbol is the primitive expression of the unconscious, but at the same time it is also an idea corresponding to the highest intuition produced by consciousness.  
C. G. Jung (1875-1961)
- 6485 Man's ultimate concern must be expressed symbolically, because symbolic language alone is able to express the ultimate.  
Paul Tillich (1886-1965)
- 6486 Religion is the most rational science of life, the science of man as he essentially is, the science which shows him how he is a part of Cosmos, how he ought to abide by the law of the Cosmos, and aim at the fulfillment process of the Cosmos.  
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 6487 The word "prayer" is applied to at least four distinct procedures: petition, intercession, adoration, and contemplation.  
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)

6488 If in the dark he kneels to pray...  
He really prays.

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Chinese Proverb

#### 4. POSITIVE

6489 When the wisest rests his mind in contemplation on our God  
beyond time, who invisibly dwells in the mystery of things  
and the heart of man, then he rises above pleasures and  
sorrow.

Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

6490 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers  
shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the  
Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and  
they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in  
truth.

Jesus (B.C. 6?-30? A.D.)

6491 The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and  
cheerful heart.

Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)

6492 By association with the exalted,  
Who would not become uplifted?  
The thread which strings the flowers  
Becomes a garland for the head.

Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

6493 Prayer is a virtue that prevaieth against all temptations.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

6494 Truth is what prays in man, and a man is continually at  
prayer when he lives according to the truth.

Swedenborg (1688-1772)

6495 True religion is the poetry of the heart;  
it has enchantments useful to our manners;  
it gives us both happiness and virtue.

Joubert (1754-1824)

6496 Prayer purifies; it is a self-preached sermon.

Richter (1763-1825)

6497 Between the humble and contrite heart and the majesty of  
heaven there are no barriers; the only password is prayer.

Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)

- 6498 Religion is a necessary, an indispensable element in any great human character. There is no living without it. Religion is the tie that connects man to his Creator, and holds him to his throne.  
Daniel Webster (1782-1852)
- 6499 Is not prayer a study of truth, a sally of the soul into the unfound infinite? - No man ever prayed heartily without learning something.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6500 Light was the first Divinity worshipped by men. To it they owed the brilliant spectacle of Nature. It seems an emanation from the Creator of all things, making known to our senses the Universe which darkness hides from our eyes, and, as it were, giving it existence.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 6501 True prayer is the contemplation of all sacred things, of their application to ourselves, our daily life and actions, accompanied by the most heartfelt and intense desire to make their influence stronger and our lives better and nobler...  
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)
- 6502 A generous prayer is never presented in vain; the petition may be refused, but the petitioner is always, I believe, rewarded by some gracious visitation.  
Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1895)
- 6503 All religions are equally good. God is the fruit of any religion truly practised. Make no mistake about it. God is one. Truth is one. The colour of the cow may be different, but milk is white.  
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 6504 Rites, sacraments, and ceremonials are valuable to the extent that they remind those who take part in them of the true Nature of Things.  
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)
- 6505 There is no greater intoxication than that of love when it transcends the human object and is directed towards the divine being.  
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)

**5. NEGATIVE**

- 6506 If one profanes the name of heaven in secret he shall be punished in broad daylight: unwittingly or wittingly, it is all one in profaning the name.  
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 6507 Cease to think that the decrees of the gods can be changed by prayers.  
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)
- 6508 Nothing costs so much as what is bought by prayers.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 6509 The saviour of wandering in the ocean of deathless life  
has rid me of all my asking;  
As the tree is in the seed,  
so all diseases are in this asking.  
Kabir (1440-1518)
- 6510 Religion, which should most distinguish us from beasts, and ought most peculiarly to elevate us, as rational creatures, above brutes, is that wherein men often appear most irrational, and more senseless than beasts themselves.  
John Locke (1632-1704)
- 6511 The notion of the Trinity of Gods has enfeebled the belief in one God. A multiplication of beliefs acts as a division of belief; and in proportion as anything is divided it is weakened.  
Paine (1737-1809)
- 6512 A religion that requires persecution to sustain it is of the devil's propagation.  
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)
- 6513 Men will wrangle for religion; write for it; fight for it; die for it; anything but - live for it.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 6514 The world would be astonished if it knew how great a proportion of its brightest ornaments, of those most distinguished even in popular estimation for wisdom and virtue, are complete skeptics in religion.  
John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
- 6515 Men are idolaters, and want something to look at and kiss and hug, or throw themselves down before; they always did, they always will, and if you don't make it of wood, you must make it of words.  
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

- 6516 People of this age care for the essence of everything. They will accept the essential of religion and not its non-essentials (that is, the rituals, ceremonials, dogmas and creeds).  
Ramakrishna (1836-1886)
- 6517 Prayer - to ask that the laws of the universe be annulled in behalf of a single petitioner confessedly unworthy.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 6518 Religion is a monumental chapter in the history of human egotism.  
William James (1842-1910)
- 6519 There is not even enough religion in the world to destroy the world's religions.  
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 6520 When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 6521 My debts are large, my failures great, my shame secret and heavy; yet when I come to ask for my good, I quake in fear lest my prayer be granted.  
Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
- 6522 Religion is the last refuge of human savagery.  
Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)
- 6523 Religion without myth not only fails to work, it also fails to offer man the promise of unity with the transpersonal and eternal.  
C. G. Jung (1875-1961)
- 6524 Priests are no more necessary to religion than politicians to patriotism.  
John H. Holmes (born 1879)
- 6525 An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support.  
Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979)

## 6. ADVICE

- 6526 One should worship with the thought that he is just one's self, for therein all these become one. That same thing, namely this self, is the trace of this All, for by it one knows this All... He finds fame and praise who knows this...  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

- 6527 Our prayers should be for blessings in general,  
for God knows best what is good for us.  
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 6528 Pray to God, at the beginning of all thy works,  
so that thou mayest bring them all to a good ending.  
Xenophon (B.C. 430-355)
- 6529 Seek not the law in your scriptures, for the law is life,  
whereas the scripture is dead...The law is living word of  
living God to living prophets for living men. In everything  
that is life is the law written. You find it in the grass,  
in the tree, in the river, in the mountain, in the birds of  
heaven, in the fishes of the sea; but seek it chiefly in  
yourselves.  
Jesus (B.C. 6?-30? A.D.)
- 6530 The first petition that we are to make to Almighty God is  
for a good conscience, the next for health of mind, and then  
of body.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 6531 Unless we place our religion and our treasure in the same  
thing, religion will always be sacrificed.  
Epictetus (50-138 A.D.)
- 6532 'Release is in the eye.'... 'The seed-blossoms (spiritual  
embryo) of the human body must be concentrated upward in the  
empty space (the heavenly heart between the eyes).'  
Immortality is contained in this sentence and also the  
overcoming of the world is contained in it. This is the  
common goal of all religions.  
Lu Yen (fl. 800 A.D.)
- 6533 An individual should hold an awareness of God and His love  
all the time. He should not separate his consciousness from  
the Divine while he journeys on the way, nor when he lies  
down nor when he rises up.  
Nahmanides (c. 1300)
- 6534 A good life is the only religion.  
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 6535 All religions must be tolerated...for...every man must get  
to heaven in his own way.  
Frederick II (1712-1786)
- 6536 O you who are seeking God,  
know this:  
Know that we are the mirror of God,  
the Absolute Truth.  
Nur 'Ali Shah (died 1797)

- 6537 He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things, both great and small.  
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 6538 Practice in life whatever you pray for,  
and God will give it to you more abundantly.  
Edward Pusey (1800-1882)
- 6539 To worship rightly is to love each other,  
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.  
John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
- 6540 Pray as if everything depended on God,  
and work as if everything depended upon man.  
Francis J. Spellman (1889-1967)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 6541 O praise His goodness with songs for thanksgiving,  
and meditate in silence on the wonders of His love;  
let thy heart overflow with gratitude and acknowledgment,  
let the language of thy lips speak praise and adoration,  
let the actions of thy life show thy love to His law.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 6542 Sacrifice is the transmutation of force.  
Cosmic archetypes shape this force into spiritual energy,  
which can then reappear on the planes of form as an entirely  
different type of force to that as which it started.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 6543 To him who hearkens to the gods, the gods give ear.  
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 6544 In all thou dost first let thy Prayers ascend,  
And to the Gods thy Labours first commend,  
From them implore Success, and hope a prosperous End.  
Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)
- 6545 God is not to be worshipped with sacrifices and blood; for  
what pleasure can He have in the slaughter of the innocent?  
but rather with a pure mind, a good and honest purpose.  
Temples are not to be built for Him with stones piled high;  
God is to be consecrated in the breast of each.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

- 6546 If we traverse the world, it is possible to find cities without walls, without letters, without kings, without wealth, without coin, without schools and theatres; but a city without a temple, or that practiseth not worship, prayer, and the like, no one ever saw.  
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 6547 It isn't anything manly to go to the mountains. A man ought to be able to live in the city among people while being so occupied with God that not for a single moment is he empty of Him.  
Sari al-Saqati (fl. c. 850 A.D.)
- 6548 For those who have been lost in the contemplation of the divine immanence, God reveals his transcendence. And for those who are lost in the contemplation of God's transcendence, God reveals his immanence.  
Jalal-Uddin Rumi (1207-1273)
- 6549 Even as the needle that directs the hour,  
(Touched with the loadstone) by the secret power  
Of hidden Nature, points upon the pole;  
Even so the wavering powers of my soul,  
Touched by the virtue of Thy spirit, flee  
From what is earth, and point alone to Thee.  
Quarles (1592-1644)
- 6550 If I am right, Thy grace impart,  
Still in the right to stay;  
If I am wrong, O teach my heart  
To find that better way!  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 6551 Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Uttered or unexpressed,  
The motion of a hidden fire  
That trembles in the breast.  
James Montgomery (1771-1854)
- 6552 Such love of all our virtues is the gem;  
We bring with us the immortal seed at birth;  
Of heaven it is, and heavenly; woe to them  
Who make it wholly earthly and of earth!  
Robert Southey (1774-1843)
- 6553 I ask and wish not to appear  
More beauteous, rich or gay:  
Lord, make me wiser every year,  
And better every day.  
Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

- 6554 As down in the sunless retreats of the ocean  
Sweet flowers are springing no mortal can see,  
So deep in my soul the still prayer of devotion  
Unheard by the world, rises silent to Thee.  
Thomas Moore (1779-1852)
- 6555 Father! no prophet's laws I seek,-  
Thy laws in Nature's works appear;-  
I own myself corrupt and weak,  
Yet will I pray, for thou wilt hear.  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 6556 Speak to Him thou for He hears,  
and spirit with spirit can meet-  
Closer is He than breathing,  
and nearer than hands and feet.  
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 6557 Kneeling in prayer, and not ashamed to pray,  
The tumult of the time disconsolate  
To inarticulate murmurs dies away,  
While the eternal ages watch and wait.  
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 6558 Religion is a great force - the only real motive force in  
the world; but you must get a man through his own religion,  
not through yours.  
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 6559 We dance around in a ring and suppose,  
But the Secret sits in the middle and knows.  
Robert Frost (1875-1963)
- 6560 Let my imperfect self advance towards thy perfect being Lord  
as the crescent rises to fullness.  
Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927)
- 6561 O God, give us serenity to accept what cannot be changed;  
courage to change what should be changed,  
and wisdom to distinguish one from the other.  
Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)