

The Book of Tiles

◆ The origin of the book of tiles
Is the faint trail of god's word throughout the ages.
It was made from the words recorded in many tongues,
But it is written here in only one.

◆ Because at this moment in the world,
All the pieces of god's word
Are meant to come together.
Fitted each next to the other,
Just as the stones in the floor upon which you stand.
They are here to guide your steps
To the fullest understanding of god,
And to fill your heart with hope,
And your days with purpose.

◆ There is no author,
Because it is always god that is speaking,
Even though we are not always listening.
These words are all around you in the very rocks of the Earth,
And alive in the burning stars in the heavens.
They have fallen to these pages
Because it is their time
To be known and understood,
And you have a deep need in your heart to hear them.

◆ Think long and carefully over what you find here,
And let what is true refresh your soul,
And gladden your heart.
Take comfort in the truth
That you are dear to god,
But understand that you are meant to find
Your own way through the world.
That is the task that god has set before you,
And it is through that path,
And how you live,
That you will find your way back to the hand of god
When your days are finished here.

◆ Do not be afraid of life.
For you are never alone,
And never forgotten,
Even though you easily forget that god is all around you,
Every day of your life,
In every breath that you take,
And alive in the faces of everyone you see.

◆ You wish to know the answers to so many things,
Yet they are revealed to you freely every day,
And too often you remember none of them.
You wish to find purpose and reason
For each breath and each moment,
Yet the world is alive with them,
And all too often you choose not see them.

◆ Every age has its messenger,
And every moment its record.
History is not the dry notation of dates and names,
It is the faint trail through time,
Of all the men and women before you,
Who listened to god, or who chose not to listen.
It is kept to teach those who will listen,
And to warn those who will not.
Even though all of time is only an illusion,
Just as it is also real for us.

◆ It is not enough to think of god on some certain day,
And to ignore god's words,
On every other day.
Your works,
Your words,
And your deeds are the history of your heart,
And they are known to all.
You cannot do what is right on one day,
And then abandon everything that is right on the next.
God sees into your heart at every moment,
And knows what is true.
But god is compassionate and forgiving,
And will never turn from your side,
Only you can turn away from god.

◆ None can fall from the hand of god,
Except by their own choosing.
None can be left alone and unloved,
Except by their own will.

◆The world is an expression of something
We cannot see or understand,
Even though every waking hour
We search our hearts for its true nature.

◆Until we are gone from the physical world,
We cannot understand the pattern god has fashioned,
And it could not be otherwise,
So do not be troubled by this.
There must be both good and evil in the world,
It is their pattern and ours together
That reveals our nature
And our hearts to god,
And determines which of many possible paths
We will choose to follow.

◆There is no escape from suffering
In the physical world,
As long as we cling to it as the only world.
In truth,
There is no life or death,
They are only illusions
Created by our imperfect understanding.

◆Never forget,
Even when you are deep in sorrow,
And your heart is consumed
With darkness and despair,
That nothing is ever lost from the hand of god,
Except by its own denial of that loving touch.

◆For those who rejoice only in the physical world,
And see nothing further,
There is both delight,
And torment in endless variety to be found.
They can choose to disappear,
And to be dead if they wish.
They can know hell
And find power
And wealth
In this transient place.
But they cannot find god
Or know heaven
Because they can no longer see them.

◆God shows us the deepest beauty of the universe every day,
But we often choose to look elsewhere for our pleasure,
Lost in the familiar patterns
Of our own illusions.
This is the greatest sorrow in the universe.

◆Both those who doubt
And those that believe
God is in every breath of the universe
Are found in this tale:

◆A old man who was filled with the understanding of god
Gave a small wooden box to a passer-by
He met walking along the roadway to a small town.
“Here is a small gift I made to bring some joy into your life when you are sad,
And some comfort when you are filled with doubt,”
He said as he presented the box.
The man who received the box opened it,
And saw only that it was empty.
Shaking his head angrily,
He threw the box away,
Imagining the old man to be a fool.
And he hurried off to his life that he believed was so important.

◆The old man picked up the box from the dust at the side of the road,
And waited patiently as he continued walking.
A young girl soon came by,
Carrying her work for school.
The man gave her the box, and repeated,
“Here is a small gift I made to bring some joy into your life when you are sad,
And some comfort when you are filled with doubt.”
She took the box from his hand,
And thanked him for his kindness.
When she opened the box,
She smelled the fresh scent of the newly worked wood.
In her mind, she saw the green forest from which the wood had come,
Carefully cut and prepared over many days.
She saw the hands of the man fitting the wood together
In an act of love for a stranger.
She saw the feeling in his heart,
And the simple wish for her to be happy.
She heard the night breeze rustling the trees
From which the box had come,
And the ocean thundering in the distance from the forest,
One of god’s many voices.

◆Her heart was lightened and she smiled,
And thanked the old man again
For such a wonderful gift,
And went on her way, as he went on his,
Each much happier than before
Sharing in the joy of small things.

◆God is always speaking to us
At every moment of our lives,
But we are not always listening to that voice.
This is the source of all the sadness in the universe.

◆ Many find that their lives come to some terrible conflict.
They may have tragedy visit them with no forewarning,
And it may bring them to their knees in deep despair,
Crushing their hearts into dust,
And make them question how god could be so cruel
And indifferent to their suffering.

◆ But only if we abandon the hand of god,
And fall to Earth
Like a burning stone from the heavens,
Can we know death,
And so become filled with fear.
But nothing is lost from the hand of god
Except by its own choosing,
And death is not the end of your life,
Although your body will surely pass away in time.
Of this you need have no fear.

◆ If you fear death,
It is because you believe that god will abandon you,
Leaving you to a lonely and cruel end,
Lost and afraid in a dark corner of the world.
If you have no faith in god,
And trust only the impermanent things of this world,
Then indeed,
That is the end you will find.
Not because god would want it so,
But because you will not see that you are meant
To be held together with all other life.
Safe in the hand of god until the very end of time,
When even the stars have finally become dust,
And the universe becomes dark.
Only to be reborn yet again,
Part of a pattern vast in its complexity,
But simple in its purpose.

◆ God turns from no one,
Not those who do evil
And are covered in the blood of the innocent,
And not those who are indifferent and uncaring.
But they can never find god
In their hate filled lives,
And so are doomed to perish,
Burning in the hearts of the stars overhead,
Lost forever from the hand of god,
And made into solitary ashes.

◆ Words are no comfort to those who have no faith,
Because they do not see them pointing to the welcoming face of god.
They are only noise,
And empty.

◆ Every man and woman is dear to god,
And is meant to return there,
When their bodies have become tired,
And their days here have ended.

◆ God is every life that has ever been, and will ever be,
Joined in a way we cannot see from this temporary place.
Every bird that flies and person that lives
Is an expression of god.
We see them here as separate and distinct,
Beginning and ending,
But they are all one endless light that spans all of time.
And yet, they are as fleeting as a heartbeat,
And smaller than a grain of sand.

◆ Just as some see the empty box,
And some see the trees,
Every person carries their own vision of god.
And that is the purpose and meaning of life.
Every thread of every soul, unique and rare,
Is blended back into god,
And makes the very fabric of the heavens,
From which every new soul is made.

◆ It is a task that takes eternity to accomplish,
And is a vision too large
To be seen clearly from here.
But it is a part of the stones you stand on,
And the air you breathe.
It is in the light that streams through your window each sunset,
And wakens you each sunrise.
It is in the faces of those you love,
And those who love you.
And it regulates the very heartbeat of the universe.

***Muhammed records these words in the Qur'an,
In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful***

◆ *Thus God, the Mighty One, the Wise One, inspires you as He inspired others before you.*

◆ *His is what the heavens and the earth contain.. He is the Most High, the Supreme One.*

◆ *The heavens above well-nigh break apart as the angels give glory to their Lord and beg forgiveness for those on earth. God is the Benign One, the Merciful.*

◆ *As for those that serve other masters besides Him, God Himself is watching over them. You are not accountable for what they do.*

◆ *Thus, We have revealed to you an Arabic Qur'an, that you may warn Mecca and those who dwell around it; that you may forewarn them of the day which is sure to come: when all mankind are brought together, some in Paradise, and some in Hell.*

◆ *Had it been God's will, He could have made them all of one religion. But God brings who he will into His mercy; the wrongdoers have none to befriend or help them.*

◆ *Have they set up other guardians besides Him? Surely God alone is the Guardian. He brings back the dead to life and has power over all things.*

◆ *Whatever the subject of your disputes, the final word belongs to God. Such is God, my Lord. In him I have put my trust, and to Him I turn in repentance.*

◆ *Creator of the heavens and the Earth, He has given you wives from among yourselves to multiply you, and cattle male and female. Nothing can be compared with Him. He alone hears all and sees all.*

◆ *His are the keys of the heavens and the earth. He gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom he pleases. He has knowledge of all things.*

◆ *He has ordained for men the faith He has revealed to you and formerly enjoined on Noah and Abraham, on Moses and Jesus, saying "Observe this faith and be united in it." But that to which you call them is unacceptable to the idolators. God chooses for it whom He will, and guides to it those that repent.*

◆ *Yet men divided themselves through their own wickedness only after knowledge had been given them. And had God not deferred their punishment to an appointed time, they surely would have been punished in this life. Those who inherited the Scriptures after them have their grave doubts too.*

◆ *Therefore call men to the true faith, and follow the straight path as you are bidden. Do not be led by their desires, but say: "I believe in all the scripture that God has revealed. I am commanded to exercise justice among you. God is our Lord and your Lord. We have our own works and you have yours; let there be no argument between us. God will bring us together, for to Him we shall return."*

◆ *As for those who argue about God after pledging Him obedience, their arguments will have no weight with their Lord, and His wrath will fall upon them. They shall be sternly punished.*

◆ *It is God who has revealed the Book with truth and justice. And who can tell? The Hour of Doom may be fast approaching.*

◆ *Those who deny it seek to hurry it on; but the true believers dread its coming and know it is the truth. Indeed, those who doubt the Hour are in the grossest error.*

◆ *Benign is God towards His servants. He is bountiful to whom He will. He is the Invincible One, the Almighty.*

◆ *Whoever seeks the harvest of the world to come, to him We will give in great abundance; and whoever desires the harvest of this world, a share of it shall be his: but in the hereafter he shall have no share at all.*

◆ *Have they idols which in the practice of their faith have made lawful to them what God has not allowed? Had the decisive word not been pronounced already, their fate would surely have been settled in this life. The wrongdoers shall endure a harrowing torment.*

◆ *On that day you shall see the wrongdoers aghast at their own deeds, for then Our scourge will surely smite them. But those that have faith and do good works shall dwell in the fair gardens of Paradise and receive from their Lord all that they desire. Surely this is the supreme boon.*

◆ *Such is God's promise to true believers who do good works. Say: "For this I demand of you no recompense. I ask you only to love your kindred. He that does a good deed shall be repaid many times over. God is forgiving and bountiful in His rewards"*

◆ *Do they say: "He has framed a falsehood about God?" But if God pleased, he could seal your heart. He will bring falsehood to nothing and vindicate the truth by His words. He knows the secret thoughts of men.*

◆ *He accepts the repentance of His servants and pardons their sins. He has knowledge of all their actions.*

◆ *He hears the prayer of those who have faith and do good works, and enriches them through His bounty. But a woeful punishment awaits the unbelievers.*

◆ *Had God bestowed abundance upon his servants, they would have filled the earth with evil. He gives them what He will in due measure; He knows and observes His servants.*

◆ *It is He who sends down the rain for them when they have lost all hope, and spreads abroad His blessings. He is the Glorious Guardian.*

◆ *Among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the living things which He has dispersed over them. If He will, He can gather them all together.*

◆ *If a misfortune befalls you, it is the fruit of your own labors. He forgives much.*

◆ *On this earth you cannot escape Him, nor is there any besides God to protect or help you.*

◆ *And among His signs are the ships which sail like mountains upon the ocean. If He will, He calms the wind so that they lie motionless upon its bosom (surely there are signs in this for steadfast men who render thanks); or causes them to founder as a punishment for their misdeeds. Yet many are the sins that He forgives.*

◆ *Those who dispute Our revelations shall know that they have no escape.*

◆ *That which you have been given is but the fleeting comfort of this life. Better and more enduring is God's reward to those who believe and put their trust in Him; who avoid gross sins and indecencies and, when angered, are willing to forgive; who obey their Lord, attend to their prayers, and conduct their affairs by mutual consent; who bestow in alms a part of that which We have given them and, when oppressed, seek to redress their wrongs.*

◆ *Let evil be rewarded with like evil. But he that forgives and seeks reconciliation shall be rewarded by God. He does not love the wrongdoers.*

◆ *Those who avenge themselves when wronged incur no guilt. But great is the guilt of those who oppress their fellowman and conduct themselves with wickedness and injustice. These shall be sternly punished.*

◆ *To endure with fortitude and to forgive is a duty incumbent on all. He whom God leads astray has none to protect him.*

◆ *When they face their punishment, you shall see the wrongdoers exclaim: "Is there no way back?" You shall see them brought before the Fire. Humbled by shame, they shall look back upon it with furtive glances. The true believers will say: "Great indeed is the loss of those who forfeited their souls and all their kindred on the Day of Resurrection."*

◆ *The wrongdoers shall suffer an everlasting punishment. They shall have no friend to help them besides God. He whom God leads astray shall be lost indeed.*

◆ *Obey your Lord before that day arrives which none can defer against the will of God. For on that day there shall be no refuge for you, nor shall you be able to deny your sins.*

◆ *If they give no heed, know that We have not sent you, Muhammed, to be their keeper. Your only duty is to warn them.*

◆ *When We bestow a blessing on man, he rejoices in it; but when through his own fault evil befalls him he is ungrateful.*

◆ *To God belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He will. He gives daughters to whom He will, and sons to whom He pleases. To some He gives both sons and daughters, and to others He gives none at all. Mighty is God, and all knowing.*

◆ *It is not vouchsafed to any mortal that God should speak to him except by revelation, or from behind a veil, or through a messenger sent and authorized by Him to make known His will. He is exalted and wise.*

◆ *Thus We have inspired you with a spirit of Our will when you knew nothing of faith or scripture, and made it a light whereby We guide those of Our servants whom We please. You shall surely guide them to the right path: the path of God, to whom belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. **All things shall in the end return to Him.***

◆ God has spoken to every age,
And god has given each a message
Cast for them to understand.
Those words are meant to guide every life
Back to god's hand when their days are finished.

◆ What is important is short
Easily recorded and carried by anyone.
It is the later works of covetous
And intolerant
Men and women
That created endless pages and discussion
And endless division,
That drive our hearts so far apart,
And make our hearts grow hard and cold..
All the important words of god
Could be written in your open hand,
And never forgotten.

◆ For the message has always been the same,
From the beginning of time.
But each is a view of god,
Unique and beautiful,
Each is a piece of the whole.

◆ Every tile fits together
To show the reflected true face of god,
And every view is needed.

***Matthew records these words from Jesus of Nazareth
in the New Testament***

◆ *“Take heed that you do not give your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise you can have no reward of your God who is in heaven.”*

◆ *“Therefore when you do your alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do that they may have the glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward, but you would not wish it.”*

◆ *“Give your alms in secret: and God who sees this in secret himself shall reward you openly.”*

◆ *“And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing that they may be seen by men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward, but you would not wish it”*

◆ *“When you pray, make your prayers to God in private, and God who hears your payers in solitude shall reward you openly.”*

◆ *“When you pray, do not use vain repetitions, as the heathens do: for they think that they shall be heard better for their longer prayers. Do not be like them, for God knows what things you have need of even before you ask him.”*

◆ *“Therefore pray in this manner:”*

*Our God, who is in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom comes.
Thy will be done in this world,
As it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever. Amen.*

◆ *“For if you forgive other men and women in this world their trespasses, God will also forgive you: But if you do not forgive others, then neither will God forgive you.”*

◆ *“Lay not up for yourself treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust corrupts, and where thieves break through and steal.”*

◆ *“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break through or steal.”*

◆ *“And judge not, lest you be judged likewise.”*

◆ *“For with the judgement you give, so will you be judged, and with the measure you give, so will you receive.”*

◆ *“Do not see the failing in your brother, but forget to see the failing in yourself.”*

◆ *“Do not say unto others that they have sinned or have fault, until you have first seen and corrected your own.”*

◆ *“Whosoever shall do the will of god in heaven is my brother, and sister and mother.”*

◆ *Jesus spoke to his disciples this parable:*

◆ *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered up every kind of thing. When the net was full, and drawn to shore, the good was put away into vessels to keep it safe, but the bad was cast away and lost. So shall it be at the end of the world; the angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just. And they shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”*

◆ *Jesus said unto them,* *“Have you understood all these things?”* *They said unto him,* *“Yes, Lord, we have understood.”*

◆ *Scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus, and questioned him why he and his disciples transgressed the traditions of their elders, for they did not wash their hands before they ate.*

◆ *Jesus spoke to them and said:* *“Hear and understand.”*

◆ *“That which goes into a man’s mouth does not defile him, it is that which comes out of a man’s mouth that defiles him.”*

◆ *He spoke again to his disciples who were concerned that his answer had upset the questioners, and said further:*

◆ *“Are you also still without understanding?”*

◆ *“Do you not yet understand that what enters your mouth goes into the belly and is cast out of the body?”*

◆ *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.”*

◆ *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”*

◆ Jesus spoke to his disciples further when he prepared them for his own death with these words:

◆ “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

◆ “For whoever will save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

◆ “For what shall it profit a man or woman if they shall gain the whole world, and lose their own soul? What shall they give in exchange for their souls?”

◆ “For the son of man shall come in the glory of God, with his angels, and then he shall reward every man and women according to their works.”

◆ The disciples asked Jesus, who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven? Jesus called a little child to him, and set him in the midst of them.

◆ “Verily I say unto you, except you become as little children, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

◆ “Whosoever therefore will humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.”

◆ “And whosoever will receive one such little child in my name receives me.”

◆ “But whoever will offend one of these little ones that believes in me, it were better that for him that a millstone were hanged around his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”

◆ “Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must be that offences come, but woe to that man by whom the offence comes.”

◆ Jesus traveled with his disciples out of Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judea beyond Jordan. Many followed him, and he spoke to them when they asked him questions.

◆ One said, “Good master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

◆ Jesus said: “Why do you call me good? There is none good but God in heaven, but if you will live as God wishes, keep the commandments.”

◆ “You will do no murder, and you will commit no adultery. You will not steal, and you will bear no false witness. “

◆ “Honor your father and mother who gave you life, and you must love your neighbor as yourself”.

◆ The young man said to Jesus, “I have done all these things from my youth, what do I still lack?”

◆ Jesus said, “If you will be perfect, go and sell what you have, and give it to the poor. So will you have treasure in heaven, then come and follow me.”

◆ When the young man heard those words, he went away sorrowful, for he had many great possessions.

◆ Then said Jesus to his disciples: “*Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter the kingdom of heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*”

◆ The Pharisees questioned Jesus further, and asked him if it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not? Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said: “*Why do you tempt me, you hypocrites? Show me the tribute money.*”

◆ They brought him a penny to see. He looked at it and said to them: “*Whose image and inscription is this?*”

◆ They replied that it was Caesar’s. Jesus then said to them: “*Render therefore to Caesar the things which are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.*”

◆ Another questioned him, asking: “*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*”

◆ Jesus replied to him: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*”

◆ “*This is the first and greatest commandment.*”

◆ “*And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

◆ “*On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets.*”

◆ After Jesus was crucified, and died, and then rose from the dead to show men that death is not the end of life, he spoke these last word to his disciples:

◆ “*Go and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of God through my words. Teach them to observe all the commandments I have taught you. And know that I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*”

◆ No man or woman who claims to speak for god
And whose words are choked with violence
And hatred,
Is speaking the truth,
Or could ever know it.

◆ No man or woman that can justify
The death of others
As something god has asked for,
Has ever heard a single word from god’s lips.

◆ When god speaks,
Every life in the world is brought together,
All made from the same fabric,
All a part of god.

◆ How can you have heard these words
For thousands of years,
And still see the world as divided,
Isolated,
Consumed with the irrelevance
Of a million different names,
And so far from the truth?

◆ God has no name,
But if it existed,
We could not speak it.

◆ There is not one special faith,
True to god,
And all others are false.
Each is a piece of the path,
A stone upon which you must also walk,
To find all the ways to god.

◆ There is not one path to god,
There are endless paths,
Rich in variety.
There is not one faith,
But an endless river of faiths,
That lead to god.

◆ You are all different,
And that is meant to be the pattern.
Each must find their way,
Unique and willing,
To the destination.

◆ Over thousands of years,
And in so many languages,
God has spoken to us.
The message is always the same,
But its setting
And our nature
Are always different,
And each time more is revealed to us,
If we are willing to listen.

◆ The path to god is through your heart,
And the people that you meet.
You must turn away from what is evil
And unjust.
Your actions and your words will define you,
And open your heart and eyes to god.
God is not a symbol,
Not an idol,
Not something that requires a special place,
Other than your heart.

◆ Judgement is reserved for god alone,
It is not our task to condemn ourselves or others.
You must forgive yourself,
And forgive those you meet,
Before you can ever hope to see the face of god.

***The words of Shakyamuni Buddha are recorded in the Dhammapada
and related to us in this way:***

◆ *Hatreds never cease by hatreds in this world.
By love alone they cease.
This is an ancient law.*

◆ *Not to do any evil,
To cultivate good,
To purify one's mind,
This is the advice of the Buddhas.*

◆ *Awareness:*

◆ *The path to the deathless is awareness;
Unawareness, the path of death.
They who are aware do not die;
They who are unaware are as dead.*

◆ *Wrong:*

◆ *Be quick in goodness;
From wrong hold back your thoughts.
Indeed, of one performing the good too slowly,
The mind delights in wrong.*

◆ *Should a person do wrong,
Let him not do it again and again.
Let him not form a desire for it,
Suffering is the accumulation of wrong.*

◆ *Should a person do good,
Let him do it again and again.
Let him form a desire for it.
Happiness is the accumulation of good.*

◆ Stains:

◆ *Life is easily lived
By a shameless one,
A disparager, crafty as a crow,
Obtrusive, impudent and corrupt.*

◆ *But life is lived with hardship
By one sensitive to shame, ever seeking purity,
Free from clinging, and not impudent,
Discerning, pure in the mode of life.*

◆ *Whoever in this world destroys life,
And speaks falsely,
Taking what is not given,
And goes to another's wife,*

◆ *And the man who engages in
The drinking of intoxicants,
Right here in this world
He digs up his own root.*

◆ Flowers:

◆ *Let one regard
Neither the discrepancies of others,
Nor what is left undone by others,
But only the things one has done oneself or left undone.*

◆ *Just as a brilliant flower,
Full of color but scentless,
So is a well-spoken word fruitless
For one who does not do it.*

◆ *Just as a brilliant flower,
Full of color and fragrance,
So is a well-spoken word fruitful
For one who does it.*

◆ *Just as many garland strands
One could make from a mass of flowers,
So, much that is wholesome ought to be done
By a mortal born into this world.*

◆ The lessons of so many years
Have taught us that suffering and death
Are the results of our passion for
The physical and transient things of this world.

◆ To be free of this suffering, our minds need
To learn the truth of these things,
And understand what is of value.

◆ The world sometimes seems awash in flames,
Burning with the most foolish thoughts,
Consumed with evil,
Driven by greed.

◆ This is always a warning of how deep
Our foolishness has become,
And what we have left undone,
Consumed with our illusions.

◆ If we let what is right
And just
Drift away through neglect
And indifference,
Then we all come to live in the world we deserve.
Though we will fear it every second of its life.

◆ God's message is always clear,
We must look for what is just,
And cherish what is good.
And never forget that all others
Are also dear to god,
No less than we are.

◆ We cannot embrace the expedient evil,
And hope to come away clean
And unscarred.
Our lives are our record of how well we understand,
Or have forgotten what is important.

◆ Nothing is lost from the mind of god,
Except by its own choosing.
But the world is shaped by our words
And colored by our deeds,
So if we wish for it to be better,
Then we have to look to our own hearts to make it so.

◆ God is always with us,
Even to the very end of time,
When the stars become dust
And the heavens are dark again.
Our work in this life
Is to bring god's words alive
In this world.

◆ God is always speaking,
But we are not always listening,
Preferring the sounds of our own words,
Lost in our familiar illusions,
And unaware of the risks we are taking.

◆ This is the source of all the sadness
And evil in the universe,
But it is a small task to overcome
If we choose to face it.
And we have much yet to do.

◆ Fill your heart with what is right
And let god's songs flow from your lips
To the ones you love.
One day that will be everyone,
When our work is finished.

◆ The source of all things
Who is heaven and earth.

◆ Dearly loved is your name
In the minds of your children,
Who have touched your face
In the shapes of their dreams.

◆ Give us in the passage of this day
The bread and breath of life,
Through the work of our own hands,
At the cost of our own tears.

◆ Forgive us out of love
When there is reason,
As we do to each other.
While we struggle to close the spaces between us.
And may our love bring light into the world.