

May 11, 2023 Thursday

Peaceful presence for Peace and Justice

In our (Islamic) tradition, when we want to communicate with God through our individual prayers, we like to call Him with His beautiful names and attributes, so I tried to write down a prayer as a believer in dialogue for peace and justice and call Him with some of His beautiful names and attributes in my prayer.

Ar-Rahman and Ar-Rahim (You are The Most Compassionate and The Most Merciful),

You tell us in the Holy Quran that You made us into races and tribes so that we should get to know one another... (al-Hujurat, 49:13). Help us find ways to get to know one another and celebrate the diversity of all the things in this universe you create so beautifully. Make mutual understanding our pure intention to be at the table. Give us courage to intentionally step up and engage with the world and with others and give us courage to fight with our egos and know to listen and learn from each other.

Al-Awwal and Al-Akhir (You are The First and You are The Last)

Make us be present at the moment with full of respect for the past and full of hope for the future. Open our hearts such that we feel compassion to all beings and make our hearts resonate with our fellow friends at the table so that we can start our journey towards mutual understanding. Open our minds to convince us that we are human first, before we consider ourselves to belong to a religious or a cultural tradition.

An-Nur and Al-Hadi (You are the Light and You are the Guide)

Give us opportunities to connect with the world and others for exploration, contemplation, and enquiry on the journey of knowing You. We believe that the more we know You, the closer we get to You and Your love. Make our dialogue with each other a chance to have dialogue with You. If restraining himself from people was the way to connect with You, then Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) wouldn't spend any moment with his fellow companions and just worship you for days and nights, but he teaches us that worshiping is a way of having dialogue with You. This is why we commemorate the dialogue he has with You in his [miraculous night journey](#) during the [Tashahhud](#) where we sit on the ground in our daily prayers and testify our faith. Help us comprehend the value of dialogue and human connections to know You and worship You as You want us the way to know You and worship You.

Al-Jami'e (You are The Gatherer, You are The Unifier)

On the journey of getting to know one another, make us feel the joy of enriching each other with our various experiences, feelings, and understandings. Give us the pleasure of enabling honest friendship and trustful community.

Al-'Adl (You are The Utterly Just)

As a dialogue community, help us act together for peace and justice for all humanity. Amen.