

I reverently speak in the presence of the Great Parent God: I give Thee grateful thanks that Thou hast enabled me to live this day, the whole day, in obedience to the excellent spirit of Thy ways.

*Shinto Scripture*

Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me. Say: We have caused the rivers of Divine utterance to proceed out of Our throne, that the tender herbs of wisdom and understanding may spring forth from the soil of your hearts. Will ye not be thankful? They who disdain to worship their Lord shall be of those who are cast off.

Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God; for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful.

...It well beseemeth thee to appreciate the wondrous favors with which God hath favored thee, and to magnify continually His name.

*Bahá'í Scripture*

...Sing His praises Who is the Treasury of excellences. Sing and hear and put His love into your hearts. Thus shall your sorrows be removed, and you shall be absorbed in Him Who is the abode of happiness.

*Sikh Scripture*

We thank You, O Lord our God and God of our fathers, Defender of our lives, Shield of our safety. Through all generations we thank You and praise You. Our lives are in Your hands, our souls in Your charge. We thank You for the miracles which daily attend us, For Your wonders and favors, morning, noon, and night. You are beneficent with boundless mercy and love.... O God, You are our deliverance and our help. Praised are You, O Lord, for Your goodness and Your glory....

*Jewish Scripture*

## *“Thankfulness”*

### *Devotional Program*



*Organised by the Bahá'í community of  
Shellharbour*

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When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself.

*Native American Tradition*

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with singing. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

*Jewish Scripture*

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

*Christian Scripture*

O Lord, my God! Praise and thanksgiving be unto Thee for Thou hast guided me to the highway of the kingdom, suffered me to walk in this straight and far-stretching path, illumined my eye by beholding the splendors of Thy light, inclined my ear to the melodies of the birds of holiness from the kingdom of mysteries and attracted my heart with Thy love among the righteous.

*Bahá'í Scripture*

Few of My servants are truly thankful. What is to come is better for you than what has gone before: For your Lord will certainly give (to) you, and you will be content....Keep recounting the favors of your Lord. ...And magnify Him with repeated magnificats.

*Islamic Scripture*

Waking up this morning, I see the blue sky.  
I join my hands in thanks for the many wonders of life;  
For having twenty-four brand new hours.  
The sun is rising on the forest, and so is my awareness....

*Buddhist Scripture*

Thankfulness is of various kinds. There is a verbal thanksgiving which is confined to a mere utterance of gratitude. This is of no importance because perchance the tongue may give thanks while the heart is unaware of it. Many who offer thanks to God are of this type, their spirits and hearts unconscious of thanksgiving. This is mere usage, just as when we meet, receive a gift and say thank you, speaking the words without significance. One may say thank you a thousand times while the heart remains thankless, ungrateful. Therefore, mere verbal thanksgiving is without effect. But real thankfulness is a cordial giving of thanks from the heart....

There is a cordial thanksgiving, too, which expresses itself in the deeds and actions of man when his heart is filled with gratitude. For example, God has conferred upon man the gift of guidance; and in thankfulness for this great gift, certain deeds must emanate from him. To express his gratitude for the favors of God, man must show forth praiseworthy actions. In response to these bestowals, he must render good deeds, be self-sacrificing, loving the servants of God, forfeiting even life for them, showing kindness to all the creatures....There can be no doubt that such commendable deeds are thankfulness for the favors of God.

Consider how grateful anyone becomes when healed from sickness, when treated kindly by another, or when a service is rendered by another, even though it may be of the least consequence. If we forget such favors, it is an evidence of ingratitude. Then it will be said a loving-kindness has been done, but we are thankless, not appreciating this love and favor. Physically and spiritually we are submerged in the sea of God's favor. He has provided our foods, drink and other requirements; His favors encompass us from all directions. The sustenances provided for man are blessings. Sight, hearing, and all his faculties are wonderful gifts. These blessings are innumerable....Spiritual blessings are likewise endless--spirit, consciousness, thought, memory, perception, ideation and other endowments. By these He has guided us....He has opened the doors of all good before our faces. He has vouchsafed eternal glory. He has summoned us to the Kingdom of heaven. He has enriched us by the bestowals of God....

Therefore, in thanksgiving for them, ye must act in accordance with the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Ye must read the Tablets...all the holy utterances, and act according to them. This is real thanksgiving, to live in accord with these utterances....This is thanksgiving and glorification of God.

*Bahá'í Scripture*