



Dear Friend of the Elijah Interfaith Institute,

This issue of *Wisdom* is being produced during a particularly difficult and tragic time in the Middle East. Although there is talk of a Security Council resolution, it is still unclear when the guns will fall silent. The Elijah Interfaith Institute has been directly affected by the current situation. Circumstances have forced us to cancel the "Mysticism and Peace" event scheduled for the end of August in the Galilee. This week-long symposium was to feature the eminent Hindu leader Chandra Swami and prominent Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze religious leaders in Israel. Although the Elijah Interfaith Institute has been forced to cancel its summer activities in Israel, we have the consolation of knowing that our international activities will continue, in particular our participation in the upcoming "Religions after September 11" meeting to be held in Montreal.

In response to the cry of the heart generated by the present conflict, we dedicate this issue of *Wisdom* to prayers of peace, rather than follow our regular newsletter format. The present conflict has exacted the lives of members of the three Abrahamic faiths. The following prayers represent the deep yearning for peace found in those traditions.

We invite you to join us with your own personal prayers for peace. We all share the belief that religions can be the source of peace, not only of war.

With prayers for peace,

The Elijah Interfaith Institute

Prayers for Peace

Christian Peace Prayer (attributed to the 13th century St. Francis of Assisi)

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*

Muslim Peace Prayer (offered in Assisi, Italy on the Day of Prayer for World Peace, 1986)

In the Name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful: Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is one that hears and knows all things. And the servants of God Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say, "Peace."

Jewish Peace Prayer (Attributed to Rabbi Nachman ben Feiga of Breslov, 1773-1810)

*Lord of Peace, Divine Ruler, to whom peace belongs!
Master of Peace, Creator of all things!*

May it be thy will to put an end to war and bloodshed on earth, and to spread a great and wonderful peace over the whole world, so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Help us and save us all, and let us cling tightly to the virtue of peace. Let there be a truly great peace between every person and their fellow, and between husband and wife, and let there be no discord between people even in their hearts.

Let us never shame any person on earth, great or small. May it be granted unto us to fulfill Thy Commandment to "Love thy neighbor as thyself," with all our hearts and souls and bodies and possessions.

And let it come to pass in our time as it is written, "And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down and none shall make you afraid. I will drive the wild beasts from the land, and neither shall the sword go through your land.

God who is peace, bless us with peace !!!

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