

S

ervice



*A prayer to begin with*

*O Thou merciful God! O Thou Who art mighty and powerful! O Thou most kind Father! These servants have gathered together, turning to Thee, supplicating Thy threshold, desiring Thine endless bounties from Thy great assurance. They have no purpose save Thy good pleasure. They have no intention save service to the world of humanity.*

*O God! Make this assemblage radiant. Make the hearts merciful. Confer the bounties of the Holy Spirit. Endow them with a power from heaven. Bless them with heavenly minds. Increase their sincerity, so that with all humility and contrition they may turn to Thy kingdom and be occupied with service to the world of humanity. May each one become a radiant candle. May each one become a brilliant star. May each one become beautiful in color and redolent of fragrance in the Kingdom of God.*

*O kind Father! Confer Thy blessings. Consider not our shortcomings. Shelter us under Thy protection. Remember not our sins. Heal us with Thy mercy. We are weak; Thou art mighty. We are poor; Thou art rich. We are sick; Thou art the Physician. We are needy; Thou art most generous.*

*O God! Endow us with Thy providence. Thou art the Powerful. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Beneficent.*

*—‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

*By consecrating oneself  
to the service of others,  
one finds meaning and  
purpose in life and  
contributes to the  
upliftment of society itself.*

*—The Universal House of Justice*



***E**ach of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

*–The Bible (Peter 4:10)*

*S*trive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless work one attains the supreme goal of life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.

*—The Bhagavad Gita*

*B*riefly, all effort and exertion put forth by man from the fullness of his heart is worship, if it is prompted by the highest motives and the will to do service to humanity. This is worship: to serve mankind and to minister to the needs of the people. Service is prayer. A physician ministering to the sick, gently, tenderly, free from prejudice and believing in the solidarity of the human race, he is giving praise.

–‘Abdu’l-Bahá

***T**he ignorant work for their  
own profit; the wise work for  
the welfare of the world,  
without thought for themselves.*

*–The Bhagavad Gita*



**T**he more we search for ourselves, the less likely we are to find ourselves; and the more we search for God, and to serve our fellow-men, the more profoundly will we become acquainted with ourselves, and the more inwardly assured. This is one of the great spiritual laws of life.

—Shoghi Effendi



**T**he honour and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good. Is any larger bounty conceivable than this, that an individual, looking within himself, should find that by the confirming grace of God he has become the cause of peace and well-being, of happiness and advantage to his fellow men? No, by the one true God, there is no greater bliss, no more complete delight.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

*L*ife's most persistent  
and urgent question is, 'What  
are you doing for others?'

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



***M**ay your minds be ever bent upon the needs of the communities to which you belong, the condition of the societies in which you live, and the welfare of the entire family of humanity, to whom you are all brothers and sisters. And in your quiet moments, when no course of action other than prayer seems possible, then we invite you to add your supplications to our own and ardently pray for the relief of suffering.*

*–The Universal House of Justice*

**W**hat else will rescue the world but the efforts of countless souls who each make the welfare of humanity their principal, their dominating concern?

–*The Universal House of Justice*

# *Questions for discussion*

- With so much focus in modern-day life on “finding ourselves”, what do these quotes suggest is the best way to find meaning and purpose in our lives, and to become acquainted with our own self?
- If we become more acquainted with ourselves through service to others, what does that tell us about our true nature and purpose as human beings?
- How can we elevate our work to the level of worship?
- In moments when a course of action is limited, how can we serve and comfort others?