



Life After Death

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

O my God! O Thou forgiver of sins, bestower of gifts, dispeller of afflictions!

Verily, I beseech thee to forgive the sins of such as have abandoned the physical garment and have ascended to the spiritual world.

O my Lord! Purify them from trespasses, dispel their sorrows, and change their darkness into light. Cause them to enter the garden of happiness, cleanse them with the most pure water, and grant them to behold Thy splendors on the loftiest mount.

—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

Death is not the opposite of life, but a part of it.

—*Haruki Murakami*

For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

—*Kahlil Gibran*

Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation.

—*Rumi*



And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

—*Genesis 2:7*

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

But our citizenship is in heaven.

—*Ecclesiastes 12:7*

—*Philippians 3:20*

In the beginning of his human life man was embryonic in the world of the matrix (womb). There he received capacity and endowment for the reality of human existence. The forces and powers necessary for this world were bestowed upon him in that limited condition. In this world he needed eyes; he received them potentially in the other. He needed ears; he obtained them there in readiness and preparation for his new existence. The powers requisite in this world were conferred upon him in the world of the matrix so that when he entered this realm of real existence he not only possessed all necessary functions and powers but found provision for his material sustenance awaiting him.

Therefore, in this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here. Just as he prepared himself in the world of the matrix by acquiring forces necessary in this sphere of existence, so, likewise, the indispensable forces of the divine existence must be potentially attained in this world.

Weapons do not cut this
Spirit, fire does not burn it, water
does not make it wet, and the wind
does not make it dry... It is eternal,
all-pervading, changeless,
immovable, and primeval.

—*Bhagavad Gita*



AND now concerning thy question regarding the soul of man and its survival after death. Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure. It will manifest the signs of God and His attributes, and will reveal His loving kindness and bounty.

—*Bahá'u'lláh*

To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes, is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed if the cage is broken, though the bird has nothing to fear from the destruction of the cage. Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird ... if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist: its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increased.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá*

When the human soul soareth out of this transient heap of dust and riseth into the world of God, then veils will fall away, and verities will come to light, and all things unknown before will be made clear, and hidden truths be understood.

Consider how a being, in the world of the womb, was deaf of ear and blind of eye, and mute of tongue; how he was bereft of any perceptions at all. But once, out of that world of darkness, he passed into this world of light, then his eye saw, his ear heard, his tongue spoke. In the same way, once he hath hastened away from this mortal place into the Kingdom of God, then he will be born in the spirit; then the eye of his perception will open, the ear of his soul will hearken, and all the truths of which he was ignorant before will be made plain and clear.

—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

The Spirit is said to be unexplainable, incomprehensible, and immutable.

Knowing the Spirit as such, you should not grieve for the physical body.

—Bhagavad Gita

Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.

—Bahá'u'lláh

I have made death a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost thou grieve? I made the light to shed on thee its splendor. Why dost thou veil thyself therefrom?

—Bahá'u'lláh

What! Did you think that We had created you without purpose, and that you would not be brought back to Us?

—*The Quran*

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

—*John 14:2*

Death is nothing else but going home to God, the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity.

—*Mother Teresa*

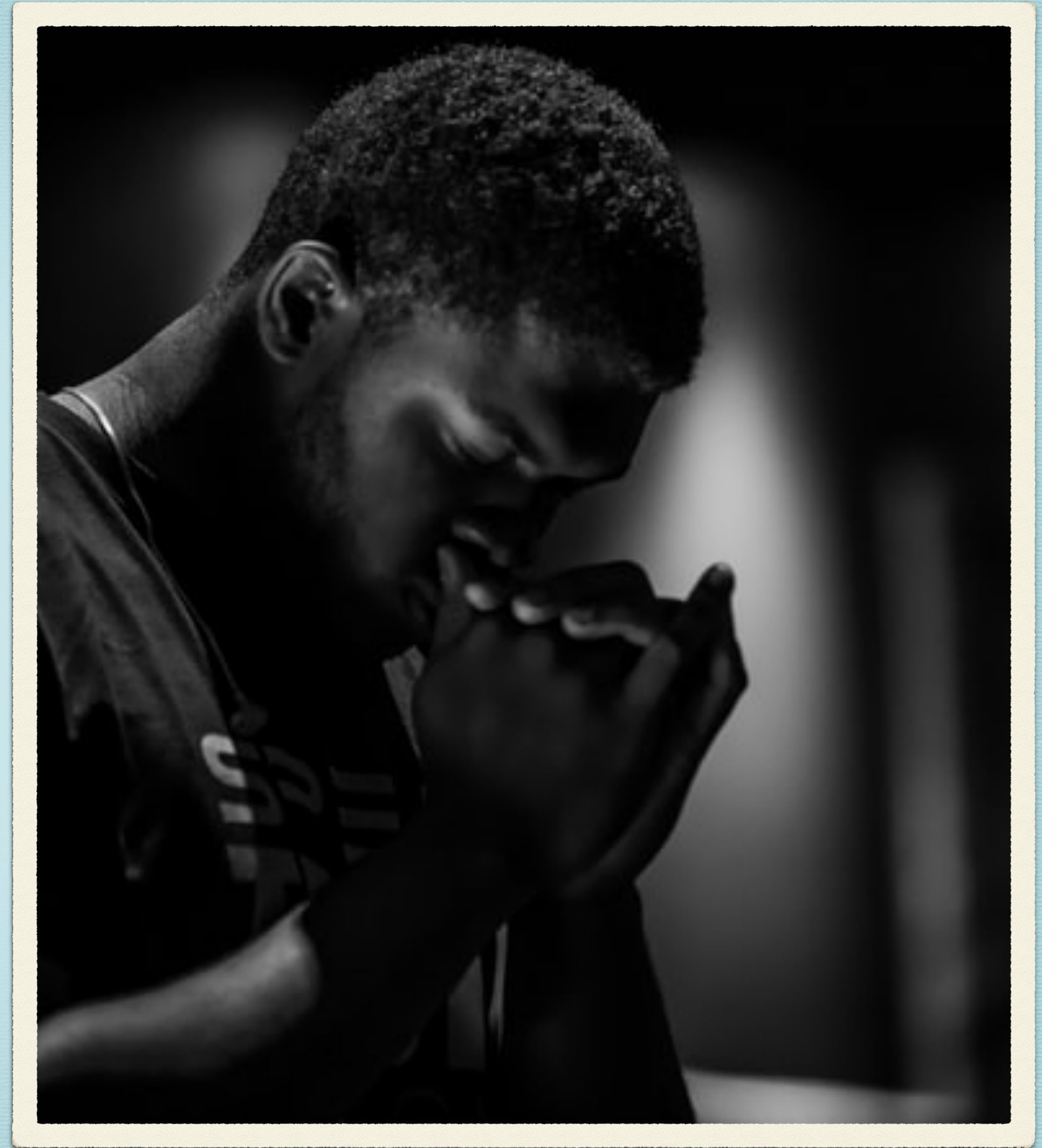
Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be able to see.

—Helen Keller

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

—Kahlil Gibran

As the spirit of man lives forever after casting off this elemental frame, it is, like all existing things, undoubtedly capable of progress, and thus one may pray for a departed soul to advance, to be forgiven, or to be made the recipient of divine favours, bounties, and grace.



—*‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

O Son of Man! Ascend unto
My heaven, that thou mayest
obtain the joy of reunion, and
from the chalice of imperishable
glory quaff the peerless wine.

– *Baha'u'llah*

