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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.

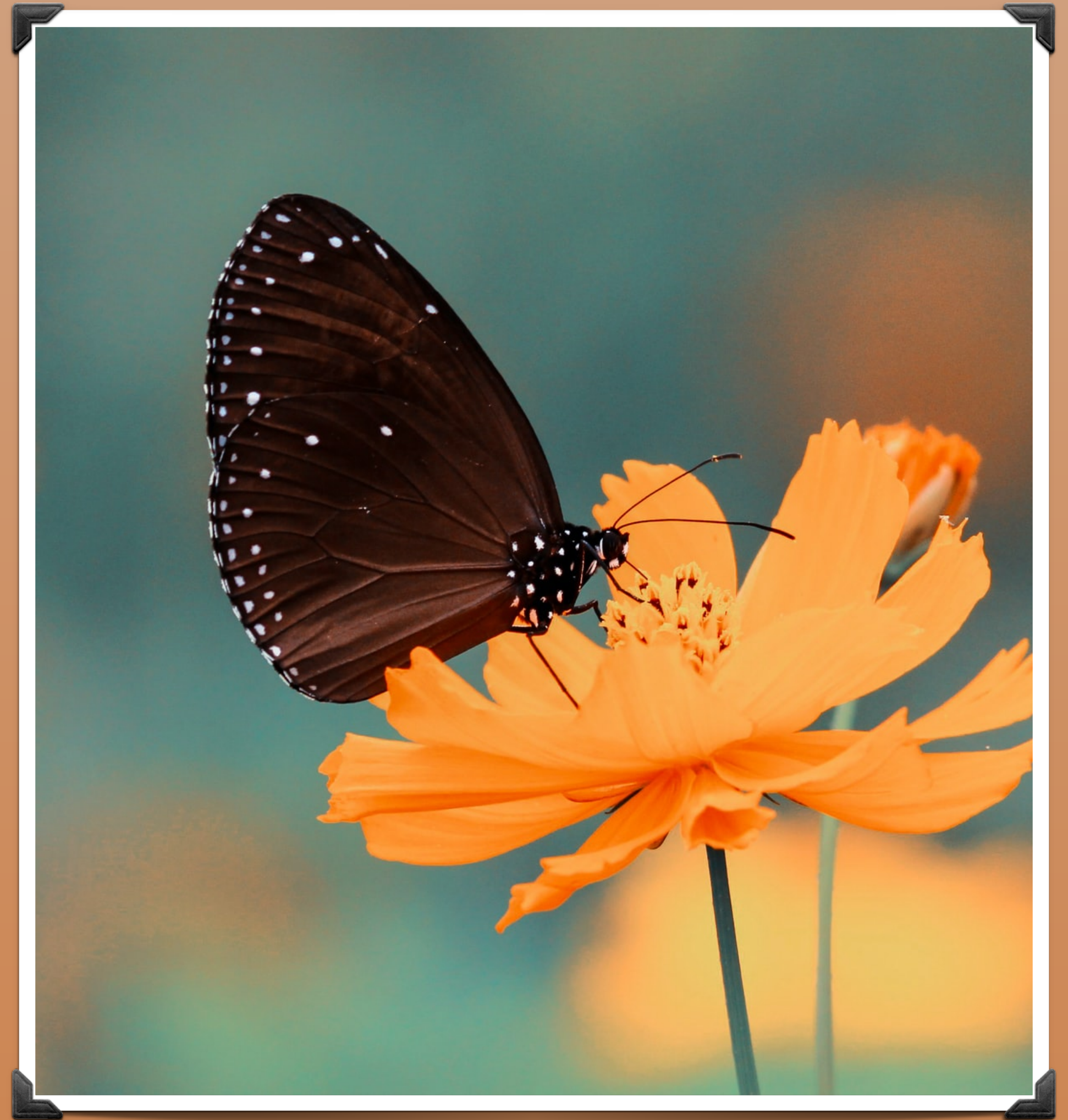
O kind Father! Confer Thy blessings. Consider not our shortcomings. Shelter us under Thy protection. Remember not our sins. Heal us with Thy mercy. We are weak; Thou art mighty. We are poor; Thou art rich. We are sick; Thou art the Physician. We are needy; Thou art most generous.

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*

Service is the magnet which draws the divine confirmations. —*Shoghi Effendi*



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.—*1 Peter 4:10*

Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches.—*Bahá'u'lláh*

The ignorant work for their own profit; the wise work for the welfare of the world, without thought for themselves.—*The Bhagavad Gita*

Strive 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*

The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.—*Proverbs 11:25*



Briefly, 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*

Service to humanity is service to God.—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

The 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*



For work, especially when performed in the spirit of service, is according to Bahá'u'lláh a form of worship. It has not only a utilitarian purpose, but has a value in itself, because it draws us nearer to God, and enables us to better grasp His purpose for us in this world.—*Shoghi Effendi*

The 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*

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' —
Martin Luther King, Jr.



May 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*

Is there any deed in the world that would be nobler than service to the common good? Is there any greater blessing conceivable for a man, than that he should become the cause of the education, the development, the prosperity and honor of his fellow-creatures? —*‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.—*Nelson Mandela*

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.—*Nelson Mandela*



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*

