

God's grace; then come "the shadow of Thy mercy and the canopy of Thy bounty"—the differentiation of light from dark is taking place, the birds are singing; there follows "the splendour of Thy luminous brow and the brightness of the light of Thy countenance"—the sky is beginning to kindle with colour; the worshipper asks to be allowed "to gaze on the Day-Star of Thy Beauty"—the sun is rising! Next comes the full panoply of dawn, symbol of the Divine Springtime of God, "by the Tabernacle of Thy majesty upon the loftiest summits, and the Canopy of Thy Revelation on the highest hills"; as one gazes upon the sun beginning to mount the skies one reaches the words "by Thy Beauty that shineth forth above the horizon of eternity, a Beauty before which as soon as it revealeth itself the kingdom of beauty boweth down in worship..."

All this takes place in the first half of the prayer. But what the worshipper is supplicating for is: to receive God's grace, to draw nearer to Him, to become attracted to Him and imbibe His words, to serve His Cause in such wise that he may not be held back by those who have turned away from God, to enable him to recognize God's Manifestation, to accomplish what God desires, to grant that "I may die to all that I possess and live to whatsoever belongeth unto Thee", to remember and praise God, to remove him far from whatever displeases God and enable him to draw near to the One Who manifests God's signs, to make known to this worshipper what was hidden in God's knowledge and wisdom, to number him with those who have attained to what God has revealed, to record for him what has been written down by God for His trusted and chosen ones, to write down for everyone who has turned unto God and observed the fast prescribed by Him "the recompense decreed for such as speak not except by Thy leave, and who forsook all that they possessed in Thy path and for love of Thee", and, last of all, to "cancel the trespasses of those who have held fast to Thy laws, and have observed what Thou hast prescribed unto them in Thy Book."

Almost like a leitmotiv in a sumptuous musical composition, there occurs the same refrain over and over: "Thou seest me, O my God, holding to Thy Name, the Most Holy, the Most Luminous, the Most Mighty, the Most Great, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, and clinging to the hem of the robe to which have clung all in this world and in the world to come." When I repeat this I always visualize myself and my parents and loved ones who are dead, clinging all together to this symbolic celestial robe, and I feel very close to them.

Truly a majestic prayer, containing metaphors of deep mysticism, a prayer that is a never-ending experience.

METADATA

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