

The Park Church
Adult Study Group
“Praying the Lord’s Prayer”
Rev. Wayne E. Gustafson, D.Min.

Session 8 – “A Celebration of Cosmic Renewal”
April 13, 2008

Questions and Comments from last class

Metol dilakhie malkutha wahayla wateshbukhta læhlam almin. Ameyn.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

What does this mean to you?

One way to look at this line is to see it as a summary of the earlier parts of the prayer.

1. God is the Unity that encompasses all and brings all into being.
2. God is the divine ðl canö through whom all activity and creativity happens.
3. And when we nurture and develop our relationships in harmony with the divine, God is glorified.

dilakhie ó thine ó Not in the sense of possession or credit, but in the sense of a fertile field that produces all that is needed. Sort of like: ðHave some of my tomatoes that I grew in my garden.ö The emphasis is not on the ownership of the tomatoes or the garden, but on the production and sharing of the succulent tomato that the field has produced.

malkutha ó kingdom

(From the discussion on ðThy Kingdom Comeö)

We are asking to be empowered with the creative vision of God so that we can participate in the co-creation of the kingdom. This is not asking God to do it for us, rather that God will empower us to do what we need to do.

--**hayla** ó power ó the life force or energy that produces and sustains.

Not power over others, but empowerment of all life.

This is a significant paradigm shift for our culture as we have traditionally thought of power in a hierarchical way (i.e. power means ðpower overö) for many centuries.

teshbukhta ó glory ó This is one of those words that we use all the time without really knowing what we mean. I know that I have always thought of it as having to do with giving credit or recognizing beauty or creativity that someone else has and that I do not have.

In the Aramaic sense, glory is related to song or harmony. A glorious harmony returning diving light and sound to matter in equilibrium. The roots of the word also present the picture of a generative fire that leads to astonishment

P'ahlam almin ó forever ó It is an Aramaic idiom meaning something like from gathering to gathering.

We tend to thing of forever in a linear way, meaning for as long as time lasts (from now until then).

In Aramaic cosmology, all force, physical reality, planets, nature, human beings slowly gather to a central point, then slowly disperse again.

No matter how many times the cycle repeats, the Unity is always the ground of its being and the energy of its movements together or apart.

In our dualistic way of looking at things, we might think of coming together as good and moving apart as bad. From the Aramaic perspective, that distinction makes no sense.

Ameyn ó Amen ó was a word used to seal agreements. It could be translated truly but in the sense of giving power to whatever form or words preceded it.

Ameyn might give the sense that all that happens, all we agree to, all we do, all we aspire to do, all we think we fail at, all we gain, and all we lose are forever grounded in the Unity. This word reminds us that we can never be separated from the Unity.

Mystical Prayers

1. With a gentle breath in and out, feel inside the various steps along the journey that the prayer has presented. Don't thing of the concepts but of the experience of the journey. Notice and embrace the feelings that come up. Gather them all in and feel them as whole and complete in God's universe as they disperse again to their source.
2. Close your eyes and hear inside the sound of the word *ameyn*. Feel the ground of the earth sprouting the ground of your being as your whole self comes together to go forward with life. Breathe in feeling *ameyn* and breath out feeling *ameyn*, considering your next step ó for the day or your life. Say "*Ameyn!*" and open your eyes.

Reading List

Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Translation and Commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Harper San Francisco, 1990.

The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz, Quest Books, Wheaton, IL, 1999.

8. A Celebration Of Cosmic Renewal

From you is born all ruling will,
the power and life to do, the song that beautifies all ó
from age to age it renews.

To you belongs each fertile function:
ideals, energy, glorious harmony ó
during every cosmic cycle.

Out of you, the queen- and kingship ó
ruling principles, the "I can"
of the cosmos ...

Out of you, the vital force
producing and sustaining all life,
every virtue ...

Out of you the astonishing fire,
the birthing glory, returning light and sound
to the cosmos ...

Again and again, from each universal gathering ó
of creatures, nations, planets, time, and space ó
to the next.

Truly ó power to these statements ó
may they be the ground from which all
my actions grow:
Sealed in trust and faith.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (One Possible New Translation from the Aramaic)

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,
you create all that moves
in light.

Focus your light within us- make it useful:
as the rays of a beacon
show the way.

Create your reign of unity now-

through our fiery hearts
and willing hands.

Your one desire then acts with ours,
as in all light, so in
all forms.

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight:
subsistence for the call of
growing life.

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
as we release the strands we hold
of others guilt.

Don't let surface things delude us,
But free us from what holds us back
(from our true purpose).

From you is born all ruling will,
the power and life to do, the song that beautifies all ó
from age to age it renews.