

A daily prayer for the modern Jew. By Rabbi S. Felix Mendelsohn, Temple Beth Israel, Chicago. [c. 1938].

A Daily Prayer for the Modern Jew

By Rabbi S. Felix Mendelsohn , Temple Beth Israel, Chicago

MY GOD AND GOD OF MY FATHERS! I humbly approach Thee this day. Thou encompassest the wide universe but Thou art also very near to me. Thy creative hand is to be seen in the majesty of nature and Thy divine spirit is to be felt in the heart of man. I thank Thee for this great and beautiful world and for Thine infinite goodness and mercy toward all Thy creatures.

FROM days immemorial it has been the firm conviction of my people that Thou graciously answerest the petitions of all those who call upon Thee in sincerity and truth. I therefore pray unto Thee to fill me with Thy spirit of radiant love in order that I may love Thee and all my fellowmen who are created in Thine image. Imbue me with the consciousness of boundless faith in the harmony and orderliness of the universe and enable me to lead a life of purity and to aspire to imitate Thine all-embracing perfection.

HELP me, O God, realize my potentialities for noble and creative endeavor. Possessing a spark of Thy presence and enjoying freedom to choose between good and evil I pray unto Thee to enable me to make excellent use of my constant opportunities for genuine service. Grant that I gain a thorough insight into my personality and that I see myself as I really am. Help me not to waste my energies but to labor diligently with cheerful heart and mind. Let happiness pervade my every thought and deed and enable me to enjoy good health and to dispel fear and anger from my consciousness. May I realize the eternal character of my soul which partakes of Thine ever-existing presence.

MAY truth and knowledge dominate my being and enable me to appreciate that all human beings are Thy children and that they merit the same treatment from me that I expect from them. Send unto me and unto all Thy children the realization that love and justice alone will bring serenity into our personal lives and peace into social and national relationships.

I KNOW full well, O God, that as a child of my ancient people I possess a historic obligation to perpetuate our precious heritage. May I be always aware that my great faith spells more effective living for my fellowmen and myself. Imbue me with the worthiness of Israel's message and help me derive joy from my regular visits to the house dedicated to the worship of Thee and the dissemination of the ideals of my faith. Inspire me, O God, to study daily and meditate constantly



upon the sacred writings of my people in order that I may know how to serve Thee loyally and thereby be a blessing to all who come in contact with me.

AMEN.

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