

A Prayer for Peace

*Shalom and Salaam:
Mary of Nazareth,
who is both Jewish and Palestinian,
extend your mantle of mercy
over all the peoples of the Holy Land
Jews, Muslims, Christians,
Palestinians, Israelis,
migrants, and refugees.
Mother of the Messiah,
show us how to be instruments
of healing and peace in the midst
of war, occupation, terrorism, and divisions.
Give us an embracing love
for all in the Holy Land,
especially hostages, innocent victims,
the homeless, and the dying.*

*Mary our Mother,
given to us by Jesus on the cross,
pray for us.*

THE GOLDEN RULE

We cherish our beliefs and defend them as righteous
In a world torn apart, irrespective of faith.
And yet at times, those faiths do clash.
Colliding ideologies are seldom ideal.

In the maelstrom, creeds are upheld as unique.
Beliefs are defended against adversaries.
In preserving what sets precepts apart
Each seeks favour in their Holy One's eyes.

Ah, but forgotten the roots; lost is the seed
From which such diverse teachings emerged.
It is to that end all must unify
To retrieve that common source.

And there is no need to dig too deep.
Nor search in sites afar.
It is merely veiled. Cloaked in plain disguise.
That veneer is humankind's vanity...

The remedy we call the Golden Rule;
Be it as explained by Allah, YHWH, Confucius or Jesus:

CONFUCIANISM: "Do not impose on others what you do not wish for yourself."

BUDDHISM: "Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."

HINDUISM: "This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you."

TAOISM: "Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain and your neighbour's loss as your own loss."

ISLAM: "Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself."

CHRISTIANITY: "In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

JUDAISM: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it."

SIX NATIONS' Great law of Peace: "Respect for all life is the foundation."

So simple; yet so complex.