

A Scout's Own



Chaplain's Aide Pocket Book

A Project of Wood Badge

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A Scout's Own



The Chaplain Aide Should:

1. Work with the troop chaplain (usually an adult member of the clergy) to plan appropriate interfaith religious services during troop outings
2. Encourage troop members to strengthen their own relationships with God through personal prayer and devotion and participation in religious activities appropriate to their faith
3. Participate in patrol leader's council planning sessions to ensure that spiritual emphasis is included in troop activities
4. Help the troop chaplain (or other designated adult) plan and conduct an annual Scout-oriented religious observance; Preferably during Scout Week in February
5. Present an overview of the religious emblems program at troop meetings at least once per year
6. Help the troop chaplain (or other designated adult) recognize troop members who receive their religious emblems, perhaps during a troop court of honor (note: most religious emblems are conferred during a service at the Scout's place of worship, but the achievement should also be recognized at a significant troop event.)

A Scout is Reverent...Philosophy of Scouting

The founder of Scouting, Robert Baden-Powell, believed that Reverence and Duty to God should be an important part of the Scout Movement and of every Scout and Scouter. He originated the notion of Scout's Own ... "a gathering the Scouts for the worship of God and to promote fuller realization of the Scout Law and Promise, but supplementary to, and not in substitution for, regular religious observances."

- They are an acknowledgment of God and his creation and ourselves as part of it, expressed in a way that all the faiths that Scouting embraces can share together.
- They are a pause in our activity to discover something deeper and more permanent in the things we are trying to achieve or learn or enjoy.
- They are a response to the Creator for the gift of life.

A Model Worship Service for Scouts

To interest the boys, the Scouts' Own must be a cheery and varied function. Short hymns (three verses are as a rule quite enough—never more than four); understandable prayers; a good address from a man who really understands boys (a homely "talk" rather than an address), which grips the boys, and in which they may laugh or applaud as the spirit moves them, so that they take a real interest in what is said. If a man cannot make his point to keen boys in ten minutes he ought to be shot! If he has not got them keen, it would be better not to hold a Scouts' Own at all.

By Baden Powell
Printed in "The Scouter"
November 1928

Holding a good service:

The components of a Scout's Own are whatever suits the occasion and suits the leader of the service. If the boys are left thinking and have been thankful, success was achieved!

- Plan the service... boy lead is better
- Choose several boys to read and lead in advance of the service
- Practice

Praying in a group:

When present, members of the clergy or chaplain aide may be asked to lead the troop or other Scouting units in prayer. If the group consists of members with mixed beliefs, or if the beliefs of the group are unknown, then prayers should be of an interfaith content. However, if the group is of like belief or the unit is chartered to a religious organization, then it is entirely appropriate to offer belief-specific prayer.

An optional order of the service:

1. Call to worship
2. Cheer of thanks for those who made this outing possible
3. Opening song
4. Reading of scripture or story
5. Short discussion about the meaning of the reading or story
6. Song
7. Closing prayer
8. Dismissal

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Stories

Everybody's Canoe

A young Indian brave was busy at work carving a canoe out of a log. As he worked, members of the tribe passed by. Everybody had a piece of advice to offer the young man.

"I think you are making your canoe too wide". One of them said. The young brave, wishing to show respect for the advice of an elder, narrowed down the canoe.

A little while later, another warrior stopped by. "I'm afraid you are cutting the stern too full," he said. Again, the young brave listened to his elder and cut down the stern.

Very soon, yet another member of the tribe stopped, watched awhile, then said, "The bow is too sheer." The young brave accepted this advice as well and changed the line of the bow.

Finally, the canoe was complete and the young brave launched it. As soon as it hit the water, it capsized. Laboriously he hauled it back onto the beach. Then he found another log and began his work anew.

Very soon, a member of his tribe stopped by to offer some advice, but this time the young brave was ready.

"See that canoe over there?" he asked, pointing to the useless craft on the beach. "That is everybody's canoe." Then he nodded at the work in progress. "This one," he said, "is my canoe".

The Traveler and the Tracker

Once a traveler and a tracker set out to explore the world together. As they wound their way through the wilderness, the traveler was amazed at the tracker's habit of pausing several times a day to pray.

"Why do you pray to something intangible?" the traveler asked. "How do you know there is a God?"

Now the tracker was very skilled in noticing things and, through the years, had gained much insight reading the smallest signs. And he answered the traveler this way:

"I know there is a God when I see the leaves turning yellow. I know there is a God when a trout jumps at a fly, and when grass waves in the dry wind. I know there is a God when clouds shade my head and the stars wink at night."

"So you see," said the tracker, "I know there is a God, for I can see his footprints throughout the universe."

B-P's Farewell Message to Scouts

Dear Scouts:

If you have ever seen the play *Peter Pan* you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of good-bye.

Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made in the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. "Be Prepared" in this way, to live happy and to die happy – stick to your Scout promise always – even after you have ceased to be a boy – and God help you to do it.

Your Friend,
Baden-Powell of Gilwell
September 1, 1940

Creation

Genesis 1:1 - 2:2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and

the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25

Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have!’

Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Golden Rule

Mark 12:28

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

The Lilies of the Field

Matthew 6:25

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

Any why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

A true story

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

Readings

Proverbs 3:1 – 8

My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart,¹ for they will give you a long and satisfying life. Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you! Wear them like a necklace; write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation. Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn your back on evil. Then you will gain renewed health and vitality. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.

Story: A few short years ago in a little town in Sweden a man named Edwardo Sierra found himself standing in front of a small church. Having been taught to worship regularly Sierra went inside. The church was empty except for a local man, Jenoe Svensen who had died. His body was lying in state. Sierra went to the front of the church and knelt at the altar. There he prayed for Mr. Svensen, and quietly left. On his way out he noticed the register book had no names signed in it. So, thinking it a sad thing for anyone to pass on without even a single person putting their name on the visitor's register, he signed his name. A few weeks later Sierra received a phone call. The caller was the administrator of Jenoe Svensen's estate. It seemed that Svensen's will called for \$1 million dollars to be divided among those who came to his wake. Sierra soon received a check for the million dollars as he was the only person who came to the church.

What it means to Scouts: King Solomon reminds us in the book of Proverbs that as a general rule, obeying Gods commands will help us live a long, prosperous life and receive the favor of God and kindness from the people around us. Prosperity might not come to us as

quickly and easily as it did for Edwardo Sierra, but keeping morally straight will always prove rewarding.

Prayer: Dear God we thank you for giving us words of wisdom. You are good to us and we praise your name for your loving-kindness. We put our trust in you. Help us to obey your commands. Forgive us for when we fail to be the person you want us to be. Help us to always do what is right, even when those around us are doing the wrong thing. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen

Last word: Remember scouts that virtue is its own reward.

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

Miscellaneous Verses & Thoughts

Joel 2:23

Rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.

THOUGHT: Do you remember one of the earliest questions in the Bible? "Where is your brother Abel?" To which Cain responded: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Paul's answer is a clear and undeniable yes! We must look to the interest of others and not just our own.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Isaiah 46:4

[The Lord says,] "Even to your old age and gray hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

THOUGHT: God will not forget us when we're in trouble or when we are old. We may outlive our friends and be forgotten by those who know us, but God will never leave us or forsake us. He will sustain, carry, protect, and rescue us.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Psalms 50:1

The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

Leviticus 19:32

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

THOUGHT: In an age where respect is little known and even less practiced, showing honor for those who are older is often overlooked. Yet in this place, by the LORD's own word, showing respect for the elderly ranks right up there with reverencing God. But then we shouldn't be surprised, since God made honoring parents the very first commandment (in the Ten Commandments -- Exodus 20 directed at our relationship with others -- the first four commandments were directed at our relationship with him!)

The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading

Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of boys and men throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbors. (Exodus 20:13)

Scouts: A Scout is Trustworthy.

Leader: He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much. (Luke 16:10)

Scouts: A Scout is Loyal.

Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Leviticus 19:18)
Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Scouts: A Scout is Helpful.

Leader: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. (Romans 12:10) Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. (Psalms 133:1)

Scouts: A Scout is Friendly.

Leader: Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification. As occasion may require, use words that are gracious and a means of grace to those that hear them. (Ephesians 4:29)

Scouts: A Scout is Courteous.

Leader: A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast. (Proverbs 12:10)

Scouts: A Scout is Kind.

Leader: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that is may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Scouts: A Scout is Obedient.

Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but a sad heart breaks the spirit. For the hapless, every day is hard, but a cheerful heart is an unending feast. (Proverbs 15:13)

Scouts: A Scout is Cheerful.

Leader: Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise; which, having no chief, overseer or ruler, provides her bread in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. (Proverbs 6:6)

Scouts: A Scout is Thrifty.

Leader: Be strong, be brave, fear not, be not terrified of them, for it is the eternal, your God, who goes with you. He will never fail nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Scouts: A Scout is Brave.

Leader: Who shall ascend unto the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalms 24:3)

Scouts: A Scout is Clean.

Leader: And thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

Scouts: A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others.

Not a Man's Footprint

A man was crossing the desert with an Arab guide. Day after day the Arab never failed to kneel on the burning sand and call upon his God. At last one evening, the man said to the Arab, "How do you know there is a God?" The guide fixed his eye upon the scoffer for a moment, and then replied; "How do I know there is a God? How did I know that a camel and not a man passed last night? Was it not by the print of his hoof in the sand?" And pointing to the sun whose rays were fading over the horizon, he added, "That footprint is not of man."

Created Equal

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

from the Declaration of Independence

On Reverence

The old knights were very religious. They were always careful to attend religious service, especially before going into battle or undertaking any serious difficulty. They considered it the right thing always to be prepared for death. Besides worshipping God in church, the knights always recognized His work in the things which He made, such as animals, plants and all nature.

And so it is with peace scouts today. Wherever they go they love the woodlands, the mountains, and the prairies, and they like to watch and know about the animals that inhabit them, and the wonders of the flowers and plants.

No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have a religion.

Scouting for Boys, by Robert Baden-Powell, p.261

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all.

One is *Evil*. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is *Good*. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Native American Code of Ethics

1. Rise with the sun to pray.
2. Be tolerant of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.
3. Search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.
4. Treat the guests in your home with much consideration. Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.
5. Do not take what is not yours whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture. It was not earned nor given. It is not yours.
6. Respect all things that are placed upon this earth – whether it be people or plant.
7. Honor other people's thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them. Allow each person the right to personal statement.
8. Never speak of others in a bad way. The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns.
9. All persons make mistakes. And all mistakes can be forgiven.
10. Bad thoughts cause illness of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.
11. Nature is not FOR us, it is PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.
12. Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons. When they are grown, give them space to grow.
13. Avoid hurting the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.
14. Be truthful at all times. Honesty is the test of one's will within the universe.
15. Respect others religious beliefs. Do not force your belief on others.
16. Share your good fortune with others. Participate in charity.

Prayers

Black Elk: Earth Prayer & the Sunset

Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, 1863–1950

Earth Prayer

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

"You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Hey! Lean to hear my feeble voice. At the center of the sacred hoop
You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.

With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather, – With running
eyes I must say – The tree has never bloomed – Here I stand, and the
tree is withered – Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it
then – That it may leaf – And bloom – And fill with singing birds!
Hear me, that the people may once again – Find the good road – and
the shielding tree.

The Sunset

Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being.

And I say the sacred hoop of my people was one of the many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy...

But anywhere is the center of the world.

Great Spirit Prayer

"Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others. Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy – Myself."

Wae Wae Non Ne Mot
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

"The Creator above is the Great Spirit and the Great Mystery. His gifts are plentiful therefore you want not. He holds out a branch of love and protection and He draws you to where the ground is undisturbed, where the air is pure and the water is clear and clean enough to give life. You walk, you breathe, you feed, for you are pleased. The times when your heart is weak, your circle is out of balance, He lifts you up again and draws you to the good Menominee road, for He is strength and wisdom."

(part of The Menominee Version of the 23rd Psalm)

Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Big Thunder (Bedagi), late 19th century Algonquin

"The Great Spirit is in all things, is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us; that which we put into the ground, She returns to us...."

Give us hearts to understand;

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;

Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand:

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;

That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench; that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,

Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me; I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.

An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your friends,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

An Indian Prayer

O' great spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Written by Chief Yellow Lark, Sioux, 1887

Short Benedictions

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate. -- *From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And give you peace. --*Traditional*

May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent from one another. -- *The Mizpah*

For health, strength, and daily food, we give you thanks, O Lord.
For this and all your mercies, Lord, make us truly grateful.
For food, health, and friendship, we give you thanks, O Lord.
For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank you, O Lord. --(*Philmont Grace*)

Come, O Lord, be our guest and bless what you have bestowed on us. Gracious giver of all good, we thank you for food and rest. Grant all we say or do pleases you.

Lord, bless our Scouting leaders who spend so much of their time and energy to help us grow up well. Guide them in their work, give them patience and wisdom, and reward them in this life and the next. Amen.

As our campfire fades, we thank you for the joys and blessings of this day. We lift our minds and hearts to you in gratitude for life, happiness, and the Scouting movement. Lord, protect our camp this night. May we rise refreshed and ready to serve You. Amen.

Closing Ceremony Thoughts

May I grow in character and ability as I grow in size.

May I be honest with myself and others in what I do and say.

May I always honor my parents, my elders and my leaders.

May I develop high moral principles and the courage to live by them.

May I strive for health in body, mind and spirit.

May I always respect the rights of others.

May I set a good example so that others may enjoy and profit from my company.

May I give honest effort to my work.

May I learn things that will help me make life better for every living thing in God's beautiful world.

The Scoutmaster's Benediction

May the great Scoutmaster of all true Scouts be with us until we meet again.

Songs

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Chorus (in bold):

Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home
A band of angels coming after me
Coming for to carry me home

(Chorus)

Sometimes I'm up and sometimes I'm down
Coming for to carry me home
But still my soul feels heavenly bound
Coming for to carry me home

(Chorus)

The brightest day that I can say,
Coming for to carry me home,
When Jesus washed my sins away,
Coming for to carry me home.

(Chorus)

If I get there before you do
Coming for to carry me home
I'll cut a hole and pull you through
Coming for to carry me home

(Chorus)

If you get there before I do
Coming for to carry me home
Tell all my friends I'm coming too
Coming for to carry me home

(Chorus)

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven.
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden.
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning.
God's re-creation of the new day.

Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

Jordan's River is chilly and cold, Alleluia,
Kills the body but not the soul, Alleluia.

Jordan's River is deep and wide, Alleluia,
Meet my mother on the other side, Alleluia.

Gabriel, blow the trumpet horn, Alleluia,
Blow the trumpet loud and long, Alleluia.

Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia,
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia.

Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia,
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia.

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
'Twas grace that brought us safe this far,
And grace will bring us home.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world.
I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world.
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently, each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?"

"Have I cared and have I tried,
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Every thing to be prepared?"

Listen Lord, oh listen Lord,
As I whisper soft and low.
Bless my mom and bless my dad,
These are things that they should know.
I will keep my honor bright,
The oath and law will be my guide.
And mom and dad this you should know,
Deep in my heart I love you so.

Kum Ba Ya

Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Oh Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's crying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's laughing Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's shouting Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's praying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum ba ya, My Lord Kum ba ya.

Kum Ba Ya -- The Scout Law Version

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout's trustworthy Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is loyal, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is helpful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is friendly, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is courteous, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is kind, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout's obedient, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is cheerful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is thrifty, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is brave, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is clean, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is reverent, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

God Bless America

God Bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the ocean, white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Church in the Wildwood

There's a church in the valley by the Wildwood.
No lovelier place in the dale,
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the Little Brown Church in the vale.

CHORUS:

O, come, come, come, come,
Come to the Church in the Wildwood,
O, Come to the church in the dale.
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the Little Brown Church in the vale.

How sweet on a bright Sabbath morning,
To listen to the clear ringing bells;
It's tones so sweetly are calling,
O, come to the church in the vale.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are
stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift
sword.
His truth is marching on.

(Chorus)

Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
His truth is marching on.

He hath sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call
retreat;
Oh, be sifting out the hearts of me before his judgement seat;
Oh, be swift my soul, to answer Him, be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

America the Beautiful

Oh beautiful, for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain.

For purple mountains majesty,
Above the fruited plains.

America, America!
God shed his grace on thee.

And crowned thy good,
With brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years.

Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

America, America!
God shed his grace on thee.

And crowned thy good in Brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

Joy like a fountain
Love like an ocean

"Down to the River to Pray"

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!

O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe & crown?
Good Lord show me the way

O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way

O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way

O mothers let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way

O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way

This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land.
From California, to the New York Island.
From the redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley,
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and rambled, and I followed my footsteps,
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts.
All around me a voice was sounding,
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, when I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving, and the dust clouds rolling,
A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

Notes

Notes

This booklet compiled by Dave Walters, Owl Patrol 2007