

"The Wall" A prayer by Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah

Inspired by Ephesians 2: 14-18

O Lord, you came to us to demolish barriers between people,
To establish peace and to unite hearts
And to create a new "human being" who does not know enmity but only love
Look at us all, we who live on this land that you, yourself, sanctified
You made it a land of encounter and reconciliation with all human beings.

Look at us in your sacred land,
We still live separated by walls
Though we believe that you love us all, with the same love for all

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and hear our prayers (Ps. 4:1)

O God, the walls still exist and they are high
Not for protection but for isolation and separation, ignorance, discrimination and killing
The walls are silent but they create strife and drive love away
O lord, your children are fighting
Change their hearts,
Change the expenses of building walls and make these expenses for building fraternity and love
among your children

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and hear our prayers

They say: they are afraid
They say: They are satisfied and content
They say: They do not want to know anything about what lies on the other side of the wall
And we say: we are besieged and our life is in a big prison

There is anxiety in our hearts and confusion in our speech
We are all your children born to love and be loved

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and hear our prayers

We believe that your hour, the time for peace and justice will come
And we are patient
But fill our patience with your love and grant us the strength to do what you want us to

O Lord, fill our hearts with your divine security, and your power
So that fear will disappear and souls will meet in you
And walls will fall down and become bridges that join your children together

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and hear our prayers

O God, you have provided us with everything to love
The human being created in your image is capable of love
As you yourself are love

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The human being is capable of peace and justice
As you, yourself, are peace and justice
But the human being refuses to be human, capable of love, peace and justice.
This obstinate refusal, you alone can change.

As you have triumphed over non-existence and death; you created the human beings and on the
Cross you recreated him/her
O Lord, re-instill his/her love again.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and hear our prayers

Heal us of our paralysis , our inability for love, peace and justice
You are our Creator and Father, you are the “lover of all human beings” (Byzantine hymn)
despite all their sins
O God, on this land there is a major sin: One people is oppressing another people

Your children are oppressing your children.
Grant us that we may all see you
So that each one of us may see himself/herself as you created us
And see the other you created in your image able to love like you love us,
And see that both are your same image, your same love as you are love
And see ourselves as builders of justice and peace with the power of your love

Until when, O Lord,
Look down from the highest and see
Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy.