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## My Creed

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**The Message of the East.** Issued monthly. Founded 1912, by Swami Paramananda. Annual subscription, \$2.00. Single copies, 25 cents.

Published by

**The Vedanta Centre, 32 Fenway, Boston, Mass.**

**Ananda-Ashrama, La Crescenta, Los Angeles Co., Calif.**





SWAMI PARAMANANDA

*Portrait by Kenneth Clark Pillsbury. Winter Exhibit, Boston Art Club, 1927.*



# My Creed

## POEMS

BY

SWAMI PARAMANANDA

AUTHOR OF "SOUL'S SECRET DOOR," "THE VIGIL," "RHYTHM OF LIFE," "DAILY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS," "SELF-MASTERY," "CHRIST AND ORIENTAL IDEALS," "PATH OF DEVOTION," "EMERSON AND VEDANTA," "PLATO AND VEDIC IDEALISM," ETC.



PUBLISHED AND FOR SALE BY

THE VEDANTA CENTRE  
BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.

ANANDA-ASHRAMA  
LA CRESCENTA, LOS ANGELES CO., CALIF.

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DEDICATED TO ALL  
WHO LOVE HIGH IDEALS  
AND  
BREADTH OF VISION



## FOREWORD

The poems in this new volume by my dear friend, the Swami Paramananda, will, I am sure bring to many other readers the same stimulus and inspiration which they have given me.

The breadth of view and the depth of spiritual perception in "My Creed" characterize all these offerings of a richly idealistic and singularly ardent poetic gift:

Now I bow before Thee, neither to the  
east nor to the west,  
Neither to the north nor to the south;  
But to all quarters I make my obeisance;  
For I see Thee in all . . .  
And knowing how my finite life is con-  
tained in Thine infinite majesty,  
My soul is at peace.

To be capable of ecstasy seems ever more clearly to be the indispensable endowment of the true poet. I find this capacity in

## My Creed

---

this singer. He adores with rapture the manifestation of Divine Love in human faces and in the "sapphire sky," in birds and flowers, sunrises, and moon-wakes on sea and placid rivers. For the sake of the Great Revealer he loves "those that dance with joy" and "those that are crushed by sorrow." He knows himself encircled by the very sweetness and glory of eternal Love; how can he then but feel and sing such ecstasy? And we who hear are kindled by the healing fire of his inspiration.

The spiritual daring of the piece "Be Thou Mad for Me," calling for greater intensity and what the blind of heart will even term "insanity," in the outgoing passion for God, is notable in poetic venture.

The conquering power of gentleness and tenderness over all hardness is exquisitely

## My Creed

---

set forth in "Friend, Make Not Your Heart Like Stone." And in "Lowly Jesus" there breathes a tribute and comprehension which surely the Son of Mary accepts with joyful heart. Would that the whole Church which bears His Name might feel and live in radiance the beauty of vision and adoration that ennoble this wonderful psalm of love!

I have read these poems with responding heart, and gratitude for the shining treasure they have brought me, and I am sure they will prove a spiritual "Open Sesame" to many others also, admitting to a wealth of inspiration and delight. I consider it a high privilege to pen a Foreword to such precious contributions to our enrichment and gladness of spirit.

ELIOT WHITE.

*New York City.*





## Contents

	PAGE
ABOVE RANK AND FILE	18
ALL IS WELL WITH ME	34
ALL WILL I FORSAKE	29
ALOHA	31
ALWAYS WE LEARN	89
A MAN AMONG MEN	49
A SECRET	59
AS I LOVE THEE	63
AT THE CROSSROAD OF LIFE	83
BE THOU MAD FOR ME	32
BIRD OF SONG	96
BLESSING SIN AND MISERY	44
BURN THOU STEADILY ON	42
DESERT NIGHT	100
DO THE TREES SING AND DANCE?	98
DO THOU COME UNTO ME	26
DIVINE ORACLE SING	45
FEVER OF SELFISHNESS	46
FLAME OF FAITH	90
FRIEND, MAKE NOT YOUR HEART LIKE STONE	37

## Contents

---

	PAGE
GIVE ME THY HAND	61
GIVER OF PURE SIGHT	72
GRIEVE NOT, FEAR NOT	51
HAND OF LOVE WILL WORSHIP	71
HARBOR OF SAFETY	30
HOLY ETERNITY, BOUNDLESS GLORY	92
I AM DREAMING	65
I AM AN IMMORTAL SOUL	28
I COME TO THIS RIVERBANK	36
I PUT COLOR IN SKY	103
I SHALL CALL ON THEE EVER	20
I WILL DARE NOW	73
KEEP ME NOT WAITING AT THY DOOR	52
KINDLE IN MY SOUL	76
KINGFISHER MY SOUL	25
LET US HALT NOW	85
LONE WANDERER	78
LOVE THOU ART MY GOD	86
LOWLY JESUS	48
MAN LOVES AND MAN HATES	38
MAN OF GOD	39
MEDITERRANEAN MOON	102
MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAIN	101

## Contents

---

	PAGE
MY CREED	15
MY ETERNAL TREASURE	41
MY NATURE'S SANCTUARY	95
MY SOUL BE THOU PATIENT	81
NONE CAN SING WHOSE VOICE IS NOT UNLOCKED	88
ONLY THEIR SMILE WE SEE	107
ON WINGS OF INSPIRATION	35
PASSWORD OF THE BEE	99
SHINE IN MY SOUL	60
SOAR MY SOUL	22
SOUL'S EFFULGENT LIGHT	82
SOUL'S HEALING LIGHT	58
SPIRIT OF DAWN	97
SPIRIT OF LOVE	21
STAY OR GO AT THY WILL	66
SUNSET ON THE GANGES	108
TAKE ALL	57
TALISMAN	24
TALL TOWERING TREE	106
TENDER COMPASSION	50
THE CLOCK OF LIFE	40
THE DAWN COMES	104

## Contents


---

	PAGE
THEE I LOVE IN ALL	111
THE EVER PURE SOUL	67
THE GREAT GAME OF LIFE	75
THE LIGHT WILL SHINE	23
THE VEIL	69
THE WHEEL OF LIFE	27
THINK ON ME	19
THOU MY COMRADE	70
THOU WHO GIVEST THY BOUNTY	17
THY ABUNDANT GIFT	33
THY FOOTSTEPS	62
THY GIFT I CARRY	54
THY GRACE	68
TIRED PILGRIM	80
TRAPS OF DELUSION	77
TUNE WITH LOVE	47
UNFAILING LAMP	56
WAKE THOU NOW	64
WHEN FORTUNE FROWNS	74
WHERE THY FEET HAVE TOUCHED	91
WORK WITHOUT FEAR	79

## My Creed

---

### MY CREED

BIDING Presence, Spirit of the  
universe, Breath of our life,  
In temples and chapels did I  
seek to worship Thee.

On pilgrimage I sought Thee;  
In seclusion I craved to find Thee by quiet  
meditation.

Many long roads have I followed with  
eager spirit;

In many turns I thought I almost touched  
Thee.

Now I find Thee here—here in this nearest  
space that is not space.

I see Thee everywhere.

Thus the holy truth of Scriptures, known  
to all seers,

I see with my naked eye:

That Thou art ever present, pervading  
and permeating all.

[ *continued* ]

## My Creed

---

Now I bow before Thee neither to the east  
nor to the west,  
Neither to the north nor to the south;  
But to all quarters I make my obeisance,  
For I see Thee in all.

Is my worship in my sacred shrine ended?  
My intimate communion before the chosen  
altar, will it be no more?  
Nay, I find Thee there still;  
Yet art Thou manifest in all without.  
Thus I worship Thee in forms of infinite  
vastness.

In Thy unfathomed glory the atom of my  
life is magnified;  
In this unfolded vision my soul is  
expanded;  
And knowing how my finite life is con-  
tained in Thine infinite Majesty,  
My soul is at peace.

## My Creed

---

### THOU WHO GIVEST THY BOUNTY




THOU who givest Thy  
bounty  
With ceaseless love  
And tender blessing,  
Alas, how oft we come to Thee,  
Our hands and hearts already filled  
With fear, doubt, and all this world's  
endless possessions.  
Thou who givest Thy bounty,  
We pray that Thou dost give us power  
of sanctity  
To receive Thy blessing.  
We pray that Thou dost open our sight of  
understanding;  
And place us in Thy kingdom of safety  
Where conflict of doubting life hath no  
entry.  
We pray unto Thee for this—and this  
alone.

## My Creed

---

### ABOVE RANK AND FILE

HOU dost lift me up  
So far above this rank and file  
My feet do not touch  
Nor hand hold aught  
That hinders my soul's flight.  
To this sphere I rise  
When Thy love fills my heart;  
When Thy love fills my soul  
I am light, and in light I float.



## My Creed

---

### THINK ON ME



THINK on Me  
When thou hast reached  
glory's heights.

Think on Me  
When thou hast fallen to misery's utter-  
most depths.

Think on Me  
When thou hast spoke or done aught to  
wound thy brother.

Think on Me, O think on Me  
When thou art drowned in despair.  
I will purge thy heart of grief;  
I will heal thy wounded soul  
And plant a new seed of life to redeem thy  
dead hope.

Why dost thou wander away from Me?  
Why dost thou shut thy door and brood  
in darkness?

O come to Me with guileless heart.  
I will not fail thee;  
I will grant thee peace.

## My Creed

---

I SHALL CALL ON THEE EVER

**W**HEN thrown I will lie at Thy  
feet prostrate;  
When lifted I will cling to Thy  
hand of might;

When in dark I shall pray for Thy light;

When in light I shall pray for its staying.

In honor I shall be humble,

In censure I shall be of gentle heart,

And in safety or danger

I shall call on Thee ever.

## My Creed

---

### SPIRIT OF LOVE



SPIRIT of Love, open Thy gate!

I wait here on Thy threshold,  
gasping for life.

O Spirit of Love, breathe into my soul  
Thy breath of love,  
else I live no more.

Verily Thou art life—all joy—all peace!

Spirit of Love, fill me anew;

Be Thou, Thyself, my all.

Rule Thou my body, mind and heart.

Let Thy voice speak,

Let Thy breath breathe

And Thy pulse pulsate my whole being.

Let Thy music resound and fill my soul.


O Spirit of Love, open—open Thy gate.

I am waiting on Thy threshold!

## My Creed

---

### SOAR MY SOUL

OAR, my soul, to high sphere  
Where air is pure and free.  
Soar, my soul, where sight and  
sound are still.

Soar, my soul, soar, soar  
And breathe the breath of life.

THE LIGHT WILL SHINE

**T**HE LIGHT will shine, yea, the  
light will shine  
Amid all ungenial sight and  
sound;

Over all dark and dreary place,  
The light will shine, yea, the light will  
shine.

The moon dances in the rose garden  
And casts its gleam on a rubbish pile;  
Yet it ever remains the same moon,  
Lovely and divine.

The fire burns the dross,  
The fire burns the gold;  
Yet fire ever remains bright and shining.  
Like unto the light of the soul  
It will shine,  
Ever and ever it will shine.


## My Creed

---

### TALISMAN

**D**O THOU carry Me as a talis-  
man  
Ever hid deep in thy heart.  
Keep me there well hid,  
And keep Me ever in thy thought.  
If thou dost not have Me in thy thought,  
Thou canst not carry Me in thy heart.  
Think of Me at all times,  
Keep watch, keep watch.  
They can never keep Me  
Whose mind and mouth are not one.

KINGFISHER MY SOUL


HE pearl of great price is hid.  
Dive deep, dive deep,  
Kingfisher, my soul,  
Dive deep, and seek.

Perchance thou findest nothing first;  
Kingfisher, my soul,  
Persist, persist;  
Dive deep, dive deep and seek.  
They who know not the secret will laugh  
And will make thee sad;  
But lose not thy courage,  
Kingfisher, my soul.  
The pearl is there, hid.  
Faith will find the treasure,  
And what is hid will reveal.  
Dive deep, dive deep,  
Kingfisher, my soul,  
And seek and seek.

## My Creed

---

DO THOU COME UNTO ME

IVING up all other thoughts,  
Seeking no other aid,  
Do thou come to Me.  
Unto Me do thou come,

I shall save thee—

From all sin shall I save.

Do thou take thy shelter here.

Have no other thought or care;

Only do thou think on Me.

Be rid of all fear, all fear.



THE WHEEL OF LIFE



WRONG turn of the wheel  
of life  
Doth bring us even to a point  
of dangerous fall;  
And yet but a slight turn of the selfsame  
wheel to the right, rights our wrong.  
Let us right our wrong to the end;  
To the end let us right all wrong.

## My Creed

---

### I AM AN IMMORTAL SOUL




AM an immortal soul.  
Ne'er was I bound to flesh,  
Nor will I be bound now.  
I am an immortal soul, ever  
free,

One with First Cause, Great Immensity.  
To this Truth will I anchor my thought.  
Let storm of doubt and disease blow,  
Ever will I stay fast;  
To Truth will I cling.  
I am an immortal soul;  
Imperfection have I none.  
Wisdom, unwisdom, virtue, and sin,  
These have I none.  
None, none of these have I.  
Immortal soul am I,  
Ever free, ne'er bound.

## My Creed

---

### ALL WILL I FORSAKE

 ALL will I forsake to have Thee as mine.  
All will I forget with thoughts of Thee alone.

All will I leave behind  
To hear Thy music day and night.  
And if perchance I sleep,  
I shall dream of Thee in my dreaming.  
When Thou art with me I feel lack of  
nothing.

Love, joy, wisdom and strength,  
Faith and prayer—surge in my soul;  
All will I forsake to have Thee as mine.

HARBOR OF SAFETY

**N**EVER was I happy with rea-  
soning;  
Never was I myself with  
thoughts of conjecture.

Only in simple faith did I find  
A stillness,  
A marvelous depth  
Where soul being drowned,  
Itself became its mistress.  
Freedom, joy, and detachment,  
Detached of all terrestrial chain  
And yet bound with unbreakable union,  
Like a ship anchored in the harbor of  
eternal safety.

## My Creed

---

### ALOHA



ALOHA! I love you.  
Aloha! I greet you,  
I greet you with love—  
A fair greeting with music of  
thought

Touched tenderly on one universal chord,  
On music of thought!

Drown all discord from hearts of men.

Let man's rhythmic being sing

*Aloha! Anandam!*

Song of love and song of joy.

## My Creed

---

### BE THOU MAD FOR ME

**B**E THOU mad with thought of  
Me,  
Be thou mad with love of Me,  
Be thou mad with joy,  
Be thou mad with yearning.  
In this mad world be thou ever mad for  
Me.

Some are mad for pleasure,  
Some are mad with pain;  
Some are mad for name and glory,  
Some are mad through fame;  
Some are mad for gain and grandeur,  
Some are mad in vain.  
Some are mad for woman's love,  
Some are mad for wealth;  
Some are mad with selfish thoughts,  
Some are mad from wits deranged.  
In such a world of mad chaos  
Be thou mad for Me.

THY ABUNDANT GIFT

**W**HEN Thou gavest me life  
Thou gavest abundantly;  
But alas, I made myself poor  
With thoughts of lack.


When Thou gavest me dwelling  
It was full of light;  
But alas! I have brought darkness and  
fear.

That light once so abundant  
Now hath become dim and rare.  
Giver, Lover, most indulgent Mother,  
Tear from me, O tear from me that  
which hides Thy light!

## My Creed

---

### ALL IS WELL WITH ME

HOU hast given me the word  
And I have spoken.  
Thou hast given me the voice  
And I have sung.

Good or ill, fair or foul,  
These have I banished,  
Knowing what Thou doest is ever well.  
All is ever well with me  
When Thou dost dwell in me as my all.



## My Creed

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### ON WINGS OF INSPIRATION



ON WINGS of inspiration when  
I float,  
I see the fairies winding their  
golden thread  
To weave magic carpets,  
And shining devas floating in ether  
To watch over those who seek their aid.  
All this dense and dreary world  
Aflame with light and life!  
I hear music and laughter  
And I see a light that soothes my sight.  
When on wings of inspiration  
All is changed to beauty and brightness,  
And all is made divine.  
Death and despair, hard, sad,  
And all sordid facts of life  
Are made divine, divine.

## My Creed

---

I COME TO THIS RIVER BANK



COME to this river bank day  
after day  
To wash this vestment of my  
heart.

If fortune ever helps me to make it spotless  
white

I will dip it in the dye of His love.

FRIEND, MAKE NOT YOUR HEART  
LIKE STONE

**F**RIEND, make not your heart  
like stone, hard and unfeeling.  
Stone endureth not time nor  
stroke.

Hard stone doth break and crumble,  
But behold the blade of grass!  
When thou dost trample o'er it,  
It lies in utter humility,  
    Yea, and is left unharmed.  
In His sweet garden the stones are cast  
    aside,  
And the lowly grass adorns the lawn.

## My Creed

---

### MAN LOVES AND MAN HATES

**M**AN loves and man hates,  
But He, the All-loving, ever  
loves and never hates.  
Man laughs and man weeps;  
Man smiles and man frowns;  
Man sorrows and man sighs;  
Man schemes and seeks revenge  
And ever carries an anxious heart,  
But He, the All-loving, ever smiles  
His unchanging benediction upon all.

## My Creed

---

### MAN OF GOD



MAN of God, move forward  
on thy path.

Let not thy heart be distressed,  
nor lose thy courage.

Walk alone, walk on, and weep if thy  
heart is heavy;

But let not thy spirit sink in grief, nor  
give up thy march.

O man of God, thou art a stranger here  
amidst this world's crowd,

Yet thy lonely tread sheds light upon this  
dark and desolate world.

O thou brave, bleeding heart,

Giver of sweet peace to world-weary  
souls.

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

**M**OMENTS of sorrow  
And moments of joy,  
Moments of sunshine  
And moments of cloud,  
All are but drops  
In the Infinite bosom of Eternity.  
Time is but a witness  
When the hand of destiny  
Winds the clock of life.

## My Creed

---

### MY ETERNAL TREASURE

**N**OW shall I give thee My eternal  
treasure,  
For thou hast forsaken the  
wealth of this world.

I held this for thee always in Mine own  
safe-keeping

And waited for the ripening of thy soul.  
Take thou now what is thine own and  
rejoice at thy blessing.

Let thy soul sing and make other souls  
sing.

Blessed songster, fill the air with thy song.  
It will quicken faith in desolate hearts;  
It will awaken strength in weak bodies  
And it will infuse new life into all  
despondent souls.

Sing, O songster, sing thou thy song!

## My Creed

---

### BURN THOU STEADILY ON

**B**URN, burn, burn Thou steadily  
on;  
Consume all, conflagrate all  
with Thy flame of love!

Burn in my heart,  
Burn in my soul,  
Burn in my body,  
Burn in my mind.  
Burn, burn, burn Thou steadily on!

Sin will cease,  
Dark will pass,  
Doubt will die,  
Gloom will fade  
Before Thy radiant glow.  
Burn, burn, burn Thou steadily on!



## My Creed

---


Flame of Love,  
Flame of Life,  
O Thou eternal, undying Flame!  
Day and night, sleep and wake,  
Burn Thou steadily on!

Burn Thou in,  
Burn Thou out,  
Burn Thou ever on;  
Burn in my heart,  
Burn in my soul,  
Burn Thou steadily on!

## My Creed

---

### BLESSING SIN AND MISERY

F SIN teach thee humility  
And bring thee nearer to God,  
Oh, bless it!  
If misery purify thy heart,  
Oh bless it  
And welcome it!  
If all thy friends abandon thee  
And thou art left alone, helpless,  
Be glad!  
He will come then,  
For He loves those who are alone.

DIVINE ORACLE, SING

**D**IVINE oracle, sing again and  
sing freely with thy voice  
of inspiration.

Sing for Him Who hath given  
thee thy voice and tongue.

Sing for Him—Him alone.

Pay heed to naught that distracts thy soul.

Sing for Him,

For Him do thou sing.

FEVER OF SELFISHNESS




OH, THIS burning fever of self-  
ishness—  
Consuming thirst of self-love,  
ambition, and greed,  
Envy, pride, and self-pity!  
How these evils haunt our life through  
disease of self.

“Dost thou call this illusion, a passing  
dream;  
All my pain unreal,  
My sorrows unfounded?”

Aye, weary soul, verily all this is unreal—  
A passing dream sprung of dark night of  
despair.

Drink thou this nectar of love  
Thy fever will cease,  
Thine anguish pass,  
And thou shalt gain pure sight.

TUNE WITH LOVE

E IMMORTAL souls, chained  
to earth with thousand  
fettters,  
Do not carry venom in your  
hearts.

Resist not evil,  
But the same do ye overcome by love.  
Age-long riddles of life are never solved  
Save when our hearts are tuned with love.  
With love tune your heart, hand, body,  
and mind.

## My Creed

---

### LOWLY JESUS



JESUS, most tender,  
I would not call Thee such,  
Thou majestic Being;  
But once Thou didst reveal to  
me a strange mystery:  
I saw Thee, not in Thy dazzling glory,  
But as a lowly Being intent on a holy  
mission.  
Thou didst not stop to receive pompous  
worship and loud prayers of men,  
But I saw Thee stoop and lift from the  
dust a stricken, discarded life,  
To revive and redeem.  
O Thou Holy Compassion,  
Love embodied,  
I know Thee now,  
I love Thee now;  
My heart is full of adoration.  
I knew Thee not in Thy dazzling glory.

## My Creed

---

### A MAN AMONG MEN



ONCE I saw Thee walking among  
men—a man,  
Yet wert Thou apart.  
Not in Thy dazzling splendor,  
But through Thy humble being and mark  
of heaven's compassion,  
Thus did I find Thee and reach Thee.  
If Thou wert a king, I could not have  
reached Thee;  
If Thou wert in great splendor, I could  
not have gazed upon Thee;  
If Thou wert in Thy holy might,  
I could not have dared approach Thee.  
O Thou heavenly Being,  
Thou hast cleansed, sanctified and re-  
deemed this abandoned spark of life.

## My Creed

---

### TENDER COMPASSION

**H**OLY, Holy, Holy,  
Thou divine Compassion!  
Unearthly on earth,  
Thou tender Compassion!  
We love Thee, we worship Thee,  
we adore Thee,  
Thou tender Compassion.  
Thou hast healed us,  
Thou hast redeemed us,  
O Thou most holy, tender Compassion!  
We kneel before Thee,  
We bend before Thee;  
Do Thou enfold us with Thy tender  
Compassion.  
O Holy, Holy, Holy!

Amen.



## My Creed

---

### GRIEVE NOT, FEAR NOT

**T**URN thy face to Me; grieve not.

Why dost thou fear, my child?  
Fear not, but look to Me;

I will give thee comfort.

I will dry thy tears with My hand of love  
And put on thy countenance a radiant  
smile.

I am the Spirit of joy;

Where I am there is no sadness.

I am the perpetual Springtime;

I am the tenderness of love;

I am the essence of life, residing in all  
living things.

I am in thee now and evermore.

When wilt thou know this and be free  
of fear and doubt?

## My Creed

---

### KEEP ME NOT WAITING AT THY DOOR



H, KEEP me not waiting at  
Thy door!

I am weary, yea, I am worn  
with longing.

Thou knowest my yearning soul,  
Why dost Thou keep me waiting?  
If it be Thy pleasure to make me weep,  
Then shall I weep tears of joy;  
If it be Thy pleasure to burn me in  
anguish,  
Then let my heart be a burning fire of  
anguish.

Oh, Beloved, it is for Thee I am mad,  
It is for Thee I am silent,  
It is for Thee I am eloquent,  
It is for Thee I am sad.

## My Creed

---

My exuberance leaps like a flame in joy  
When I am with Thee.  
My love, my life, my soul's passion,  
My heart's throb, and all my unknown  
    depths,  
Yea, all, all are contained in Thee.  
For Thee I live,  
With Thee I walk,  
In Thee I delight.

THY GIFT I CARRY

**T**HOU hast blessed;  
Yea, I feel blessed.  
Thou hast given;  
I have taken in wonder.

In mute silence  
Thy gift I carry  
Where'er I go.  
Land or sea,  
Far or near,  
In crowd or in seclusion,  
I carry, I carry—  
I carry only what Thou hast given.  
I have not spoken aught  
Nor can I speak,  
But Thou hast made my tongue to sing  
My soul's hiddenmost yearning;  
Thus I sing, I sing.

## My Creed

---

Will I forget Thee if perchance  
Others look to me for light?  
All light is Thine;  
This Thou hast shown me oft.  
Thou and world, I and mine,  
All these thoughts arise;  
But when I am alone with Thee  
And no thought hinders my soaring soul  
I find all, and  
All I find in Thee.

UNFAILING LAMP



T RANQUIL, transcendent, un-  
failing lamp!

Like a star of the far-distant  
realm

Dost Thou shine with gentle glow at the  
sanctuary door,

Revealing hidden path and awakening  
ever-fresh hope in the heart of weary  
souls.


If perchance my eyes are dimmed or  
distracted by the world's glamour

Yet do Thou ever show me His compassion  
At whose door Thou dost shine.

## My Creed

---

### TAKE ALL

AKE all, take all,  
Only give me Thy peace."  
Thus did I cry in my sleep,  
And great peace did I feel  
enfolding me.

But on waking did I find in my hand  
The things I renounced in my dream!  
Oh, let me dream again.  
Again let me renounce all  
That hinders my soul's freedom.

## My Creed

---

### SOUL'S HEALING LIGHT



H! RADIANT Sun,  
MY soul's healing Light,  
Shine upon my life day and  
night!

Day and night do Thou shed upon my  
life Thy healing radiance.

My prayer is weak and faltering,  
But Thou all-seeing Sun knowest my  
inmost need.



## My Creed

---

### A SECRET




SECRET have I learned today,  
And this will I unfold to thee  
in deep silence  
And only in a whisper:  
It is not our merit that earns us His grace;  
Nay, nor is it our strength that gives  
power to hold His Hand;  
He helps us in our helplessness.  
The saints call Him all-loving,  
But I find Him all love.

## My Creed

---

### SHINE IN MY SOUL

HINE in my soul,  
O Thou all-effulgent Light!  
Do not let me grope in this  
hideous darkness.


Reveal Thy purpose  
And bestow upon me Thy doubt-destroy-  
ing Light.

Shine Thou upon my soul!  
In this, my hour of need, I cry unto Thee.

## My Creed

---

### GIVE ME THY HAND

N EVERY step I invoke Thy  
grace,  
With every breath I crave Thy  
blessing,

At every glance I yearn for Thy face.

Life is lonely without Thee.

Heart is vacant when Thou art not in it,  
And my body throws its weight upon me  
as if in death.


Oh, let me not grope, but give me Thy  
hand.

Thy hand is my guide, my sole sustenance;

Thy benign face is my light;

The blessing of Thy smile is my consum-  
mation.

THY FOOTSTEPS

HE sound of Thy footsteps  
awoke me.

This did I dream once in dead  
of night:

In dream I saw Thee and felt Thy living  
touch;

In dream didst Thou speak to my ear in  
silent whisper;

In dream did I follow Thee, enchanted,  
leaving my body in sleep;

In dream did I see many wondrous sights  
as I roamed with Thee.

Now my sleep is ended and my dream is  
gone;

But my heart is quickened by Thy foot-  
steps,

My body made alive by Thy touch,

My eyes purified by Thy sight,

And my ears are ever filled with Thy  
voice.

## My Creed

---

Now I can dream no more, for one dream  
Has filled my life full, oh, so full!  
I stay awake now both day and night.

### AS I LOVE THEE



H, WHEN will that day come  
When I shall see Thee in all?  
And all will I love  
As I love Thee.

WAKE THOU NOW

**W**AKE thou, slumbering soul!  
Dost thou not know the loved  
one is waiting at thy door?  
Not a moment, nay, not a  
moment,  
But an hour is gone.  
How wilt thou redeem thy lost op-  
portunity?  
Wake thou now and seek Him.

I AM DREAMING



I AM dreaming, dreaming all  
day and night;  
Dreaming of life in ceaseless  
harmony,  
Dreaming of sparkling eternity  
Like a fountain of undying life-stream.  
Oh, this dream of mad exuberance,  
Unchecked impetus to attain the pinnacle  
of unspoiled beauty  
Where souls of men delight in others'  
happiness,  
Where hearts of men sing to awaken other  
hearts from slumber!  
Oh, this dream of my heart—  
Be it true or be it false,  
I shall dream again and again and forever-  
more.

## My Creed

---

### STAY OR GO AT THY WILL

**N**OT man's urging  
Nor fancy's wings  
Shall guide my course.  
Never shall I walk in safety  
Nor find a shelter out of world's concourse  
Save when Thou dost dwell in me,  
Yea, in my heart of hearts,  
And my thoughts fasten to Thee ever.  
Stay or go at Thy will;  
At Thy will, will I go or stay,  
Speak or laugh or weep  
Or perchance in deep silence muse on  
Thy eternal mystery.



## My Creed

---


### THE EVER PURE SOUL

**T**HE ever pure soul,  
The Shining Spirit, art thou  
Who art aware of thy true life.  
These garments that we wear  
Perchance are stained or torn.  
We can mend the tear  
And the stain can be cleansed,  
If we but think and remember That which  
can never change.

## My Creed

---

### THY GRACE

HY grace is my strength.  
In waking and sleeping,  
In talking and walking,  
Make me possess Thy grace.

Thy grace is my safety.  
When alone or in crowd,  
When abroad or at home,  
Oh, let me not walk or sleep  
Without Thy grace of safety.


Thy grace is my glory,  
Yea, Thy grace is my abiding peace.  
When I possess Thy grace my heart sings  
with joy,  
My body vibrates life  
And my soul is exalted.

## My Creed

---

O mind, in world's confusion  
forget not this truth;  
My poor, distracted mind,  
cling to the holy grace  
With all Thy strength.

### THE VEIL

 MIDST the world's confusion  
Who will give me true sight,  
If Thou, Giver of life,  
Dost not lift the veil from  
mine eyes?

## My Creed

---

### THOU MY COMRADE



IT IS easier far to dare  
When Thou, my great Friend,  
art near  
To shield me from danger  
Or to distract my mind from self-reproach.  
It is easier far to look upon life with cheer  
When Thou art with me as my comrade.  
Wealth of life is too heavy with weight,  
Yea, too, too heavy with weight,  
When Thou art not there to guide my  
steps.  
I am frail, yea, I am weak;  
When forgetting Thee I lean on my  
strength.  
Will a day come when Thou and I shall  
become unsevered and one?  
Will a day come when conflict of life will  
cease  
And only Thy countenance shall I behold  
in all?

## My Creed

---

### HAND OF LOVE WILL WORSHIP

**H**AND of love will worship,  
Heart of love will pray,  
Mind of love will soar to the  
heights

And eye of love will gaze.

Then hand, heart, mind and eye

All will work as one for One.

## My Creed

---

### GIVER OF PURE SIGHT

**H**OLY Light, revealing Light,  
Giver of pure sight,  
Thou hast removed all my dark  
confusion;

Thou hast made my heart like unto a  
cloudless sky.

Glory unto Thee, Thou all-glorious Light.  
Do Thou abide with me at all hours of day  
and night.

Without Thee my soul hath no life;  
Without Thee my heart hath no love  
And my mind wanders in endless con-  
fusion.

O Thou redeeming, revealing Light,  
Do Thou stay with me, I pray unto Thee.

## My Creed

---

### I WILL DARE NOW



WILL dare now to suffer  
If Thou givest me assurance  
That I shall ever find Thee  
closer.

Suffering hath no sting for me,  
Darkness hath no gloom,  
Aloneness is not lonely  
When Thou art near.

WHEN FORTUNE FROWNS

**W**HEN fortune frowns, he loves  
me  
Who loves me well.  
When fortune hath smiled,  
Many have smiled to see me smile;  
But when fortune hath frowned,  
Only he hath smiled to make me smile  
Who loves me well.



### THE GREAT GAME OF LIFE



I N this great game of life  
There is loss and there is gain.  
If thou canst not stand the loss,  
Then do not ask for gain.

Loss and gain, gain and loss,  
Are ever in all games;  
But in this great game of life  
Look alike on both loss and gain.  
This wise counsel of ages long  
Will never fail, will never fail.

## My Creed

---

### KINDLE IN MY SOUL



KINDLE in my soul a fire  
Whose consuming flame will  
burn all;  
Only Spirit will remain shining  
alone  
Amidst ashes of dross.  
Mortal garb will no more hide  
Nor hinder its pristine light from shining.

TRAPS OF DELUSION



I AM ill or I am well;  
I am sad or I am happy;  
I am rich or I am poor;  
I am great or I am small;  
I am mighty or I am weak;  
I am this or I am that.  
These traps of delusion,  
Vanities, subtle snares,  
Will I shatter forever.  
With Thy strength  
Will I break these fetters  
That bind my ever-free soul.  
If Thou dost grant me strength,  
Thy strength I want, not mine.  
Nay, never my strength I want  
But only Thine—only Thine.

## My Creed

---

### LONE WANDERER

**N**ONE wanderer, rest thy feet;  
There is no need of haste.  
Refresh thy tired spirit  
In the cool shade of surrender.  
Do not strain nor run in feverish haste;  
He is not far.  
Miss Him not through haste  
Nor blur thine eyes through strain.

WORK WITHOUT FEAR


**W**ORK without fear, work without greed,  
What recompense wilt thou have?

What reward will suffice thee  
Save to win His pleasure through thy service?

Work without fear, work without greed.  
Look not to praise nor be hindered by blame,

But work without fear and work without greed.

TIRED PILGRIM

T IRED pilgrim, pause awhile;  
Pause yet awhile.  
Sleep will rest your body and  
mind,  
Thought will nourish your soul.  
This dwelling is for pilgrims,  
This hearth is for their warmth,  
This well is to quench their thirst,  
This couch is to rest their limbs.  
This dwelling is built for pilgrims,  
And only for those who have none—who  
have none.

## My Creed

---

MY SOUL BE THOU PATIENT

**M**Y SOUL, be thou patient with  
those who do not under-  
stand,

Be thou loving with those who  
are harsh,

Be thou kind to those who inflict wounds,

Be thou tender with those who are in  
pain.

My soul, be thou filled with gladness,

Be thou filled with faith,

Be thou filled with light,

And be thou filled with love.

SOUL'S EFFULGENT LIGHT

**W**HEN soul's effulgent light shines  
forth,  
Troubles are no more.  
Petty worries, fears and all our  
endless cares


Are no more, are no more,  
When soul's effulgent light shines forth.  
The dark clouds of thought  
That hang over our mind  
Are no more—are no more.



## My Creed

---

### AT THE CROSSROAD OF LIFE

ITTING at the crossroad of life  
I was musing:  
Shall I take this Path or the  
other?

Which will lead me there,  
This or the other?

Thus I sat and mused a long time,  
pondering, pondering;

Then suddenly I heard a silent voice:  
“Take neither, take none;  
Neither of these will lead thee there.  
There is another; seek thou that.”

“There is another; seek thou that.”  
This rang in my ear till all other sounds  
Were drowned and forgot.

[ *continued* ]

## My Creed

---

Where shall I seek?  
What was this voice?  
Whence did it come?  
This I asked with struggling mind  
Restless with longing to find.

Again I heard the silent voice:  
"Restless mind will never find where I am.  
I am within, most within.  
In Thine innermost being."

## My Creed

---

### LET US HALT NOW



FRIEND, companion of my  
journey,  
Let us halt now;  
The toil of struggle will cease  
in surrender.

See thou yon autumn leaf?  
Behold how it obeys the mighty wind:  
Whirled by the fury of storm, it spins  
unresisting.

Alas, it is tossed in a crevice  
Where it lies now in its shelter unresisting.

## My Creed

---

LOVE, THOU ART MY GOD

**L**OVE! Thou art my God,  
My Goddess,  
My Master and my Mistress,  
My Consort,

My Playmate,

My Comrade and Companion—

All these and more art Thou.

Sweet ecstasy of life

I find in Thee.

With Thee I am;

Without Thee I am nothing.

Now Thou hast come to me

I feel secure,

All cares are gone,

My faith and courage

Have blossomed like twin flowers,

My heart is like a green garden

Fragrant after a shower of dewdrops at  
dawn.

## My Creed

---

Love! stay with me, stay on;  
Without Thee life is a desolation.  
Yet will I not hold Thee  
Nor urge Thy staying.  
Thou art delicate, most tender;  
I will not press,  
But only will I invoke, worship, and pray  
at Thy shrine.

## My Creed

---

NONE CAN SING WHOSE VOICE  
IS NOT UNLOCKED

**N**ONE can sing, yea really sing,  
Whose voice is not unlocked.  
Only when the goddess of in-  
spiration

Touches the throat with her hand of grace  
Can mortal sing.

Not till then, nay, not till then,

Can one sing—really sing.

## My Creed

---

### ALWAYS WE LEARN

**W**E LEARN, we learn, we learn.  
Through shame and fame we  
learn;  
Through pain and joy we learn;  
Through praise and blame we learn;  
Through heat and cold we learn;  
Through loss and gain we learn.  
We learn, we learn, we learn,  
Always we learn.

## My Creed

---

### FLAME OF FAITH

**F**LAME of Faith, burn Thou in  
my heart day and night  
without ceasing.

In Thy glow I shall read this  
book of life,

And walk my path of destiny without fear.

Flame of Faith, burn Thou without ceasing

I have no other guide to show my course.

Flame of Faith, let Thy radiant glow

Help me to find those who are in the dark

And bring them to Thy light.

Thou dost put courage in my heart

And quicken my body with new life

And mind with undying vigor.

Thou blessed Flame,

Burn Thou without ceasing in my heart

And let me walk on the path of life

Without fear, doubt, or thought of self.



## My Creed

---

### WHERE THY FEET HAVE TOUCHED

**W**HERE Thy feet have touched  
Will I plant flower seeds to  
mark with fragrance.

Where Thy laughter hath  
sounded

Will I make tree-towers for song birds.

This body will I keep clean and untouched  
For Thy touch.

Beloved, Love, Lover,

Union, communion, ecstatic reveries:

All these will I keep

sealed in my soul

For speechless musing.

## My Creed

---

### HOLY ETERNITY, BOUNDLESS GLORY

**H**OLY Eternity, boundless Glory!  
I crave to invoke Thee,  
But my tongue hath no utter-  
ance.

I long to follow Thee,  
But my feet are fastened to the ground.  
Wilt Thou not remove my fetter of self  
That I may follow Thee always without  
hindrance?

# My Nature's Sanctuary



MY NATURE'S SANCTUARY



ROAM in this, my Nature's  
sanctuary  
Fragrant with perfumed breath,  
Shining with living radiance of  
beauty,  
Sacred by its own virtue,  
Bestowing beneficence,  
Awakening life and ecstasy,  
Asking naught, yet giving all to its vota-  
ries.  
Where would I seek God if I find Him  
not here?  
My body, bend thou now and sing thy  
song of holy humility.  
My heart, rejoice!  
Here is enshrined the Maker of all beauty.  
My soul, now is the hour of thy fulfill-  
ment.

## My Creed

---

### BIRD OF SONG



BIRD of song, sing again thy  
song of bliss!

My soul is stirred;

I feel an unknown depth that  
was not mine till now.

What note hast thou struck?

What melody hast thou roused in my soul?

What new emotion hast thou awakened  
in me?

O bird of song, sing again and once again,  
That I may learn thy song of bliss.

Thy music hath wrought a miracle.

Behold how I lift my feet and float with  
the rhythm of thy song.

Sing again and again and again,

Till my eager heart drinks the soul of thy  
song.


Songbird of divine ecstasy, keep on sing-  
ing thy joyous song

Till the rhythm of harmony makes us both  
one.

## My Creed

---

### SPIRIT OF DAWN

HE Spirit of Dawn raised the curtain of night. With her gentle hand, she bathed the face of the flowers in soft morning light. She adorned them with beauty, breathing sweet perfume into their souls. Behold how the faces of the flowers smile—expanded with life, love, and joy.

## My Creed

---

### DO THE TREES SING AND DANCE?

*Child:*

**M**OTHER, do the trees ever speak  
like us?

Do they ever sing and dance?

*Mother:*

Yes, my child, I have seen them smiling,  
dancing with the sunbeams,  
And have heard them sing their supplica-  
tion with murmuring leaves at dawn;  
They make their obeisance by bending  
their boughs to the rising sun.

*Child:*

Please, mother, rouse me at dawning.  
I should like to sing with the trees  
And dance with the sunbeams and bathe  
my face in the dewdrops that shine  
upon our lawn.  
Please, mother, wake me before the sun-  
rise;  
I must learn their dance and song.




## My Creed

---

*Mother:*

I will call thee; but if thine eyelids are  
heavy with slumber,  
Then thou must wake when thy sleep  
is gone.

### PASSWORD OF THE BEE

HE bee gave its password to the  
flower,  
And the flower readily opened  
its door

To give its heart's treasure.  
There is a strange alliance between the  
flower and the bee.

## My Creed

---


### DESERT NIGHT

**T**HIS star-strewn canopy o'er-  
head,  
Covering vast expanse of space,  
Alluring our gaze to limitless  
vision;  
The play of light and shade,  
Seen and unseen;  
The strange and mysterious drama of life,  
enacted in unspoken words,  
Make us dumb with wonder  
And our minds still with fathomless  
thoughts.  
Our souls cry out in mute ecstasy:  
O wonder of wonders!  
O beauty of creation!  
O boundless life!  
I, a part of Thee,  
And Thou, my Origin!

## My Creed

---

### MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAIN

HOU alone hast placed us upon  
this mountain pinnacle.  
Thou alone canst give us sight  
and hearing  
That we may behold the silent rocks in  
quiet contemplation  
And place upon them our humble hands in  
reverence.  
Our purified ears may hear the music of  
the mountain  
That ever falls upon the deaf ear of the  
unfeeling world.

## My Creed

---

### MEDITERRANEAN MOON



THOU tender goddess of heaven,  
Ever radiant with thy benign  
smile,  
Infusing subtle beneficence into  
all nature,  
Awakening amorous thoughts in the hearts  
of men and beasts,  
What hypnotic spell dost thou cast upon  
us with thy guileless smile?  
Behold this majestic, somber, deep blue  
water  
How it doth reflect thy sweet silvery  
smile.  
Thou art tender, yet art thou potent;  
Yea, thou dost transform all nature by  
thy gentle might.  
In the heart of music dost thou awaken  
pathos of love,  
Glow of happiness and bitterness of pain;  
In the soul of poet dost thou quicken  
ceaseless longing for thy Maker.

## My Creed

---


Thou mysterious, soft, and gentle lamp of  
heaven,  
In thy gracious light we read this great  
book of life—  
Some with joyous heart and others in  
saddest plight.

### I PUT COLOR IN SKY



PUT color in sky through set-  
ting sun to capture thy  
restive gaze.  
I am the light that reveals,  
I am the shadow that veils the light,  
I am the lustre of scarlet,  
I am sombre in black,  
I am soft,  
I am lovely,  
I am the soul of color residing as beauty.

THE DAWN · COMES

FTER night of storm and strain  
The dawn comes, the dawn  
comes.

O dawn of splendor!

Dawn of glory!

Thou hast come, thou hast come!

How glad our heart,

How happy our mind,

How fresh our body,

How vibrant our life.

O dawn of splendor!

Dawn of glory!

Thou hast come, thou hast come!

I smile to think of all the worries,

All the gloom that hung,

All the fearful, roaring winds,

And all the crashing sounds.

## My Creed

---

How ominous all things looked!  
Surely, thought I, the end is near.  
All are gone now Thou art come.  
O dawn of glory!  
Dawn of splendor!  
Thou art come, Thou art come!

TALL TOWERING TREE

**W**ILL the tall towering tree with  
uplifted head  
Say to the root hid in ground:  
Thou art low and beneath my  
gaze.

Behold how majestic I am—  
I breathe exalted air,  
I am adorned with mighty limbs,  
Fair and luscious are my fruits;  
But alas thou art low.  
Let the mighty tree try to stand severed  
from its roots  
And the man apart from God!



## My Creed

---

### ONLY THEIR SMILE WE SEE



**I**N SILENT adoration, these  
sweet blossoms  
Pour out their heart's devotion  
to Thee.

In silence they sing their song of joy;  
Only their smile we see.

Their song we cannot hear,  
Yet the exuberance of their heart's devo-  
tion we sense

In their divine fragrance.

SUNSET ON THE GANGES



SUNSET on the Ganges!

Such a color, such a beauty

I have never seen! I have  
never seen!

Tinted ripples, blue and amber,

Glistening foam as beads of silver

Dancing at sunset on Ganges' bosom  
serene.

Such a painting is only seen in dream;

Such a calm is only felt within—only  
within.

Sunset on the Ganges!

Such a color, such a beauty

I have never seen! I have never seen!

Setting sun hath no reflector

so serene, so clean.

Flame and water mixed together

never before have I seen!

never before have I seen!

Sunset on the Ganges is a holy sight.

Never before such wonder have I seen!


# Thee I Love in All



## My Creed

---

### THEE I LOVE IN ALL

HEE I love in all, and all I love  
for Thee.

Youth and old, rich and poor,  
The birds that sing and birds

that cry,

Faces that shine and faces in gloom:

In all I love Thee, and for Thee I love  
them all.

I adore Thee in flowers, I adore Thee in  
trees—and in grass that grows so  
low.

I lift my head in worship to gaze upon  
Thee in sapphire sky.

As I stand on the river bank and behold  
Thy silver gleam on moonlit night,  
My heart throbs with delight.

I sing Thy praise with the glory of dawn,  
And I chant Thy supplication at the quiet  
of setting sun;

[ *continued* ]

## My Creed

---

I love those that dance with joy,  
And I love those that are crushed by  
sorrow.  
For Thee I love them all, and Thee I  
love in all.  
Above and below and on all sides hast  
Thou encircled me.  
It is Thy love I give Thee  
As the altar-flower gives its fragrance at  
Thy feet.  
Art Thou not its fragrance and its life?  
Art Thou not its beauty and its soul?  
Like unto that flower I lie at Thy feet  
And offer Thee Thine own gift—my love  
and my life.











