



PRAYER AT DAYBREAK

Eternal King without beginning, Thou that art before all worlds, my Maker, Who hast summoned all things from non-being into this life: bless this day that Thou of Thine inscrutable goodness dost give unto me. By the power of Thy blessing enable me at all times in this coming day to speak and act for Thee, to Thy glory, in Thy fear, according to Thy will, with a pure spirit, with humility, patience, love, gentleness, peace, courage, wisdom and prayer, aware everywhere of Thy presence.

Yea, Lord, of Thine immense mercy, lead me by Thy Holy Spirit into every good work and word, and grant me to walk all my life long in Thy sight without stumbling, according to Thy righteousness that Thou has revealed to us, that I may not add to my transgressions.

O Lord, great in mercy, spare me who am perishing in wickedness; hide not Thy face from me. And when my perverted will would lead me down other paths, forsake me not, my Saviour, but force me back to Thy holy path.

O Thou Who art good, unto Whom all hearts be open, Thou knowest my poverty and my foolishness, my blindness and my uselessness, but the sufferings of my heart and the sighs of my soul are also before Thee. Wherefore I beseech Thee: hear me in my affliction and fill me with Thy strength from above. Raise me up who am paralysed with sin, and deliver me who am enslaved to the passions. Heal me from every hidden wound. Purify me from all taint of flesh and spirit. Preserve me from every inward and outward impulse that is displeasing in Thy sight and hurtful to my brother-man.

I beseech Thee: establish me in the path of Thy commandments and to my last breath let me not stray from the light of Thine ordinances, that Thy commandments may become the sole law of my being in this life and in all eternity.

O God, my God, I plead with Thee for many and great things, do not disregard me. Cast me not away from Thy presence because of my presumption and boldness, but by the power of Thy love lead me in the path of Thy will. Grant me to love Thee as Thou hast commanded, with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and with all my strength: with my whole being.

For Thou alone art the holy protection and all-powerful defender of my life, and unto Thee I ascribe glory and offer my prayer. Amen.

Grant me to know Thy truth before I depart this life. Maintain my life in this world until I may offer unto Thee true repentance. Take me not away in the midst of my days, and when Thou shalt be pleased to bring my life to an end, forewarn me of my death that I may prepare my soul to come before Thee.

Be with me then, O Lord, on my great and sacred day, and grant me the joy of Thy salvation. Cleanse Thou me from manifest and secret sins, from all iniquity that is hid in me; and give me a right answer before Thy dread judgment-seat. Amen.

—WRITTEN BY ELDER SOPHRONY OF ESSEX