

## Abbé Julio's Prayer to the Father of Heaven (A Paraphrase of the *Pater Noster*)

***Our Father who art in Heaven:*** every mouth this morning will open like mine, those which chirp, those which roar, those who know how to articulate your sweet name of Father.

We believe in you, O Lord, because everything reveals Your power and Your goodness. The harmony of the Universe testifies to a Wisdom, Prudence and Foresight that surpasses all human abilities.

***Hallowed by Thy Name:*** The Name of a Sovereign Being, Great and Wise, is inscribed in all the works of Creation. This thrice-blessed Name is known to none, but all sing it at the heights as in the depths of the Universe, each in their own language, from the blade of grass of the prairie, the smallest insect, the flower that fills the air with fragrance, the bird that skims the waves, the lion that roars, to the stars that move in limitless space, to the man who blasphemes because he puts his hand over his eyes. Everywhere we see evidence of a Paternal concern. That is why he is blind who does not recognize You in Your works, prideful who does not glorify You, ungrateful who does not give You thanks.

***Thy Kingdom come:*** Lord, you have given men Laws full of wisdom, and which would make them happy if they were to observe them. With these Laws, they would bring about the reign of peace and justice amongst them; they would help each other, instead of harming one another as they do; the strong would support the weak instead of crushing them; they would avoid the evils which lead to abuse and excess of all kinds. All the misery here on Earth comes from the violation of Your laws, for there is not a single transgression that has does not have disastrous consequences. To the brute animal You have given instinct which shows it the bounds of its necessities, and it mechanically complies with it; but to man, in addition to that instinct you have given intelligence and reason; and You have also given him freedom to observe or to break those of Your laws which concern him personally, that is to say to choose between Good and Evil, so that he has the credit and the responsibility for his actions. Nobody can claim ignorance of Your laws: for, in Your Paternal Foresight, You ensured that they were engraved on the consciousness of every person, regardless of their manner of worship or their nationality. Those who violate them do so because they fail to recognize You.

A day will come when, according to Your promise, everyone will practice them. Then, unbelief will disappear, and all will recognise You as the Sovereign Master of all things, and the reign of Your laws will be your Reign on Earth.

And then, O Lord, will that little Spark of Divinity, which I feel within me at the very center of my soul, be able to pierce these thick walls of amassed darkness, of atavistic ignorance, and become once again that splendid Light which is Knowledge, which is Beauty, which is pure Enjoyment, that Kingdom promised from olden times and which will be ours, on the sole condition that we bring our little stone for the completion of our future abode?

***Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven!*** All activity awakens: man is about, in the city as in the fields, to exercise his empire over the Earth, over fire, over iron, over all the subjugated elements, over all obedient wills: *Thy Will be carried out*, too. The night saw the regular and eternal march of the stars continue; the sun has risen at the moment You have given it for all eternity; the traveller who returns in the evening, the ploughman who gets up in the morning can confirm that none of these stars has ever missed the appointment that Your Power has given it in the immensity of the firmament: that it is so *on earth as it is in heaven*.

Indeed, if submission is a son's duty towards the father, that of the inferior with towards his superior, how much greater must be that of the Creature towards his Creator! Doing your will, O Lord, is observing Your Laws and submitting to them without a murmur: man will submit to them when finally, he understands that You are the source of all Wisdom and that without You he can do nothing. Then Your Will shall be accomplished upon the Earth, as the Elect accomplish it in heaven.

***Give us this day our daily bread:*** that is, nourishment for the maintenance of bodily strength, and spiritual nourishment for the development of our spirit.

And as from dawn the bird finds the worm or the grain that feeds it, as from dawn the daisy drinks its first drop of dew, to us who are Your well-beloved children You give nourishment.

But it is from his activity, from the resources of his intellect that man owes his food, for You created him to be free, and told him in the first days: You will draw your food from the earth by the sweat of your brow. By that, You gave him the obligation to work, so that he could exercise his intelligence by seeking ways to provide for his needs and his well-being, the one through physical work, the other through intellectual work.

Without work man would remain stationary and could not aspire to the felicity of the Higher Spirits. You help a man of good will who puts his trust in you for the bare necessities, but not a person who delights in idleness and wants to get everything without any effort, or him who seeks luxuries. How many succumb through their own fault, their carelessness, their lack of foresight, or their ambition, not wishing to be content with that which You had given them! Those are craftsmen of their own misfortune, and they have no right to complain, for they are punished by that in which they have sinned. But even these people You do not abandon, because You are infinitely merciful: You offer them a helping hand as soon as, like the prodigal son, they return in sincerity to You.

Before we complain about our fate, let us ask ourselves if it is not our doing; with every misfortune that happens to us, let us ask ourselves if it wasn't our responsibility to avoid it; but let us say too, that God has given us the intelligence to raise ourselves out of the quagmire, and that it is up to us to make use of it.

Since the Law of Work is the condition of man on earth, give us the courage and strength to accomplish it; and also give us the prudence, the foresight and the restraint not to lose its benefits.

Give us, O Lord, our daily bread, that is, the means to acquire through work the things necessary for life, for nobody has the right to demand that which is not essential.

If work is impossible for us, we place ourselves under Your Divine Providence.

If it is part of Your plan to test us by the harshest privations despite our efforts, we accept them as a just atonement for the faults we may have committed in this life or in a previous life, for You are just; we know that there are no punishments which are undeserved, and that You never punish without reason.

Keep us, O my God, from conceiving envy against those who possess what we do not have, and even against those who possess the luxuries of life, when we lack the bare essentials. Forgive them if they forget the Law of Charity and love of neighbor which You have taught them.

And keep far from our minds the thought of denying Your Justice, when we see the prosperity of the wicked and the misfortune that sometimes overwhelms the good man. We now know, thanks to the new illumination You have been pleased to give us, that your justice always leads to its completion and never fails anyone: that

the material prosperity of the wicked is as ephemeral as his corporeal existence, and that it will have terrible returns; while the joy reserved for the one who suffers with resignation will be eternal.

***Forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors. – Pardon our offenses, as we forgive those who have offended against us.***

Each of our violations of your Laws, O Lord, is an offense to You, and a debt incurred for which we must sooner or later pay. We beg for the restoration of Your infinite Mercy, and promise to make every effort not to take on any anew.

You have made for us a clear Law of Charity; but charity isn't just about assisting one's fellow man in need; it is also about the forgetting and forgiveness of offenses. With what right could we ask for Your leniency if we lack it ourselves towards those of whom we have a right to complain?

Give us, O my God, the strength to stifle all resentment, all hate and all bitterness in our souls: *do not let death come upon us while we have the desire for revenge in our heart*. If it please You to take us back from earth this very day, make it that we might present ourselves to You, purged of all animosity as in the example of Christ, whose last words were for His tormentors.

The persecutions which we must endure from the wicked are part of our earthly trials; we must accept them without complaint like all other trials, and not curse those who, through their very wickedness, facilitate the path to eternal happiness; for You have said through Jesus' mouth: "Blessed are those who suffer for justice!"

So, let us bless the hand that strikes us and humiliates us, for the scars of the body fortify our soul, and we will pass beyond our lowliness.

Blessed be Your Name, O Lord, to have taught us that our fate is not irrevocably fixed after death; that we will find in other lives the means to redeem and repair our past errors, and accomplish in a new life what we aren't able to do for our advancement in this one.

This explains all the apparent anomalies of life: it is the light cast upon our past and our future, the shining sign of Your Sovereign Justice and Your Infinite Goodness.

***And lead us not into temptation:*** we are as small children, walking with a very uncertain steps along these rough roads which wound our tender feet. Like the airy butterfly we flutter towards false lights, sizzling our poor wings. You love us more than all mothers, take us by the lead to guide our faltering steps and keep us far away from the precipices.

Give us, O Lord, the strength to resist the suggestions of the Evil Spirits who try to turn us from the path of good by prompting us with evil thoughts.

But we are ourselves imperfect Spirits, incarnate on this earth to atone and to improve. The root cause of evil is within us, and Evil Spirits can only profit by our vicious inclinations, which they keep alive in us in order to tempt us.

Each imperfection is a door open to their influence, whilst they are powerless and abandon everything in the face of perfect beings. Anything we might do to keep them out is useless if we do not oppose them with an unwavering will for good, and an absolute renunciation of evil. And so it is against ourselves that we must

direct our efforts, and then the Evil Spirits will naturally move away, for it is evil that attracts them, while good repels them.

O Lord, sustain us in our weakness: inspire in us – through the voices of our Guardian Angels and the Good Spirits – the will to correct our imperfections, to prevent the unclean Spirits from having access to our soul.

***But deliver us from evil:*** evil is the shadow, it is the blackness, it is the night; short-sighted as we are, we can scarcely distinguish the good, and the black envelops us. O Divine Spark, remove the shadows, chase the blackness from our souls, illuminate the night with the splendors of Your Eternal Justice.

Evil is not Your work, O Lord, for the Source of All Good cannot give rise to anything bad. It is we ourselves who create it by infringing Your Laws, and by the bad use we make of the freedom You have given us. When men will observe Your Laws, evil will disappear from the Earth, as it has already disappeared in more advanced worlds. Evil is not an inevitable necessity for anyone, and it appears irresistible only to those who indulge in it with complacency. If we can have the will to do evil, we can also have the will to do good. That is why, O my God, we ask for Your assistance and that of the Good Spirits to resist temptation.

***Amen!*** O Lord, if it please You, may our desires be fulfilled! But we bow to Your infinite wisdom. Of all the things that we are not given to understand, may it be done according to Your Holy Will and not according to ours, for You only want what is good for us, and You know better than we what that is.

We address this prayer to You, O my God, for ourselves; we also address it to You for all suffering souls both incarnate or disincarnate, for our friends and enemies, for all those who seek our assistance, and in particular for... (*specify your request for yourself and for those you love*).

***So mote it be:*** and let us come to the evening of this day, be it beautiful or sad, as well as the evening of our lives, without ruin for our soul, without disaster for our body.

