

**2019 DOA Retreat Poem – arranged by Sajda Elahi-Gdihi from comments by  
retreat participants**

Today feels like an incredible blessing,  
To gather strength and comfort,  
Appreciation of wisdom and the prayer services together,  
Connected to a wider circle of Daughters all the way up to God,  
There are women here who are my soul mates although they may not know it,  
What a wonderful spiritual experience the retreat was, the energy was beautiful,  
It was time to be in a non-toxic environment,  
Thankful to be here,  
So many new things to learn,  
Each year gets better,  
It's a breath of fresh air, a wonderful day,  
We are all connected even though we may be strangers,  
Despite our differences, we have many similarities,  
Looked for peace between and among us, where do you find hope?  
I got away from regular life to wonderful moments,  
My soul feels really good here,  
I came burdened down and then it started to fall away,  
So many moving moments today, I can take some peace home with me,  
It connected us all,  
Many similarities and common feelings identified despite our differences,  
What a blessing,  
Lovely to be out in nature so that the greenness of the grass and the sweet sounds of  
nature were laced through my prayers,  
Grateful for stone paths and fireplaces leading and gathering us today,  
Our prayers to God are different, yet we all reach the divine,  
Finding God's blessing in nature and in one another's eyes and hearts,  
Prayer as talking to the breeze that blows through everything,  
So memorable to physically join in the Muslim prayer,  
A moving series of connections, peace comes to us through one another,  
Warm and inviting, laughter abound,  
It led the way to chat with God,  
Three faiths, one God, 28 women, one heart.

.