

A READING FROM THE ODES OF SOLOMON: Ode 8

Open your hearts, all of you, open them to the joyous dance of the Lord, and your deep affection will grow from heart to lips to bear fruit to the Lord, a holy Life, and to speak with awareness in His Light.

Rise up exalted and stand up straight, all you who were sometimes put down. All you who were silenced, speak: Your mouth has been opened. All you who were despised, be uplifted from this moment on: Your righteousness has been uplifted.

The right hand of the Lord is with you, and has been a helper for you, and peace has been made ready for you, even before your battle has come to be.

All of you, hear the Word of True Realization, and receive the knowledge of the Most High, although your flesh may not comprehend what I am about to say to you, nor your coat of skin what I am about to make known to you:

Hold to My mystery, all you who are held by it; hold to My faithfulness, all you who are held by it; and recognize My knowledge, all you who truly recognize Me; love Me with deep affection, you who love Me — for I do not turn My face from My own, because I recognize them.

They did not yet even exist when I acknowledged them and I imprinted their persons. I made their limbs; and I made ready My own breasts for them, so they might drink My holy milk and, by it, live.

I have chosen them, and am not disgraced by them, for they show My work, and the power of My thoughts. And so who then will stand against My work? Or who is he who will not listen to them?

I longed for and formed mind and heart, and they are Mine. And I have set My Elect at My own right hand, and My righteousness goes before them; and they will not be separated from My name, because it is with them.

Seek and grow greater, and remain in the love of the Lord — even as the loved ones in the Loved One, and as the ones held in the Living One, and so as the ones redeemed in the One redeemed. And then, will you not be found indestructible in all ages, known by your Father's name.

Hallelujah

From the Forgotten Book of Eden
Translation by the Rev. Canon Robert Petrovich