

Gathas and Service



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THREE TREASURES

Hard is it to be born into human life. Now we are living it. Difficult is it to hear the Teaching of the Blessed One. Now we hear it.

If we do not deliver ourselves in the present life, no hope is there that we shall be freed from suffering and sorrow in the ocean of birth and death.

Let us reverently take refuge in the Three Treasures of the Truth.

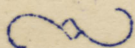
I PUT MY FAITH IN BUDDHA. May we all together absorb into ourselves the principle of Thy Way to Enlightenment and awaken in our souls Thy Supreme Will.

I PUT MY FAITH IN DHARMA. May we all together be submerged in the depths of Thy Doctrine and gain wisdom as deep as the ocean.

I PUT MY FAITH IN SANGHA. May we all together become units in true accord in Thy Life of Harmony, in a spirit of Universal Brotherhood, freed from the bondage of selfishness.

Even through ages of myriads of Kalpas hard is it to hear such an excellent, profound and wonderful doctrine. Now we are able to hear and receive it. Let us thoroughly understand the true meaning of Tathagata's Teaching.

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JUNI RAI

1. In awful reverence, I seek my refuge in Amida Buddha of infinite wisdom and compassion whom all men and angels worship. He dwells now in the blissful Land of Peace surrounded by innumerable Bodhisattvas.

2. His body, issuing radiant rays of gold, is pure and sublime as Sumera, the King of Mountains. His process of meditation is as calm and steady as the walk of elephants. His eyes are pure like blue lotus blossoms.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

3. His countenance is perfect, pure, and peaceful as the full moon. His dignity is majestic like a thousand suns and moons. His voice is full of grandeur like the sound of the celestial drum and sweet like the song of the Kokila Birds.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

4. On the crown of Avalokitecvara, He manifests Himself in forms of excellence with various adornments of treasures. Instructing heretics, devils and haughty ones, He converts them and make them all have absolute faith in Him (His teachings).

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

5. His pure Virtues are beyond comparison, and without a single stain, and as vast as the sky. He always seeks the welfare of all sentient beings and for them freely uses the means of salvation.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

6. His Holy Name resounds throughout the Ten Quarters. All Bodhisattvas and even innumerable devils praise His name. The Divine Might of His Promise is perpetually working for the sake of all the living.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

7. In the Land of Peace, there are Lakes adorned with various gems; their bottoms are strewn with golden sand and pure and splendid Lotus blossoms grow in the lakes. These are all manifestations of the supreme merit of the Buddha; and He is seated on the exquisite Lotus throne, calm and magnificent like Semora, the King of the Mountains.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

8. The Bodhisattvas coming from the Ten Regions enter the Land of Peace manifesting supernatural wisdom. They all dedicate homage to the Buddha looking upward on His Divine Countenance.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

9. He teaches that all living things are transitory and uncertain like lightening or shadow like dew or the reflection of the moon on the water, teaches the Doctrine of Egolessness and Emptiness.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

10. In His Land of Peace, there exists no Evil Realms, nay not even the name of Evil Realms can be heard. And no females (temptations) are there. All who surround Him, venerate Him sincerely.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

To instruct all that have life, he used innumerable skillful devices (Ways). He expels all Evil Lands and wicked (unwise) teachers. All who are born in His land are beyond birth and death and there attain full Enlightenment.

Therefore, in reverence, I prostrate myself before the Amida Buddha.

In these gathas, I commend the Treasury of His Good and glorify His Virtues, boundless like the water (s) of a great ocean. May the pure merit which comes through praising Him be turned to all living things, that they may all be born in His Land of Peace.

⇒ CREED ⇒

We rely upon Tathagata Amitabha with our whole heart for the Enlightenment in the life to come, abstain from all sundry practices and teachings, and giving up the trust in our powerless self.

We believe that the assurance of our Rebirth through His Salvation comes at the very moment we put our faith in Him; and we call the name, (Namu Amida Butsu), in happiness and thankfulness for His Mercy.

We also acknowledge gratefully the benign benevolence of our Founder and the succeeding Masters who have led us to believe in this profound Teaching; and we now endeavor to follow throughout our lives the Way laid down for us.

ASPIRATION

Reverently we come before the shrine of our Lord Buddha the Holy ones, With gratitude we have brought our offering of love and devotion to honor Him. We earnestly resolve to strive to understand His Holy Teaching, and to walk every day in His Blessed Path, so that like Him we may attain the peace of Nirvana.

PROMISE

I promise not to hurt anything nor take anything that does not belong to me. To keep my thoughts and acts pure and clean; nor tell what is false, nor to drink things harmful to me.

THOUGHT WAVES

We surround all men and all forms of life with Infinite Love and Compassion. Particularly do we send out loving thoughts to those in suffering and sorrow, and to all those in doubt and ignorance, to all who are groping for the Truth, and to those whose feet are standing close to the great change men call death, we send forth oceans of Wisdom, Mercy and Love.

GOLDEN CHAIN

I am a link in Lord Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing, and protect all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends on my happiness and misery. May every link in Lord Buddha's golden chain of love become bright and strong, and may we all attain Perfect Peace.

EIGHTFOLD PATH

The Buddha-Dhamma is the realization within one's deepest consciousness of the Oneness of all life. For the attainment of this purpose our Blessed Master left for us to follow the Eight-fold Path which is the Way of prime importance.

RIGHT VIEWS

To keep ourselves free from prejudice, superstition, and delusion, and to see aright the true nature of life.

RIGHT ASPIRATIONS

To turn away from the evils of this world and to direct our minds toward righteousness.

RIGHT SPEECH

To refrain from pointless and harmful talk and to speak kindly and courteously to all.

RIGHT ACTION

To see that our deeds are peaceful, benevolent, compassionate, and pure; to live the Teaching daily.

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD

To earn our living in such a way as to entail no evil consequences.

RIGHT EFFORT

To direct our efforts incessantly to the overcoming of ignorance and selfish desires.

RIGHT MINDFULNESS

To cherish good and pure thoughts, for all that we say and do arise from our thoughts.

RIGHT CONTEMPLATION

To concentrate our will on the Buddha, His Life, and His Teachings.

Let us remember to contemplate so that we will not be led astray from the Eightfold Path. Right contemplation will lead us to righteous living through right views, right aspirations, right speech, right actions, right livelihood, right effort and right contemplation. May the sacred presence of Him who said He would abide in His Teaching be our guide. May we follow, with faith and thanks, His way and tread with unfaltering step this Noble Path until we, too, shall attain Enlightenment.

INVOCATION

May the wisdom of the All-Compassionate One ☸ shine within our hearts and minds that the mists or errors and the foolish vanity of self may be dispelled. So shall we understand the changing nature of existence and reach spiritual peace.

I pledge myself to strive for
the Enlightenment of all beings.

I pledge myself to renounce
all unholy desires.

I pledge myself to follow the
Law of Righteousness.

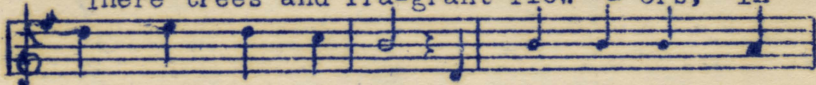
GATHAS



AMIDA'S PARADISE



There is a bles-sed coun - try, Be-
There trees and fra-grant flow - ers, In



yond the wes-tern sky A land of joy and
won - drous beau-ty grow And thru the son - lit



sun - shine A - mi - da's Par - a - dise.
mea - dows The rip - pling stream-lets flow.

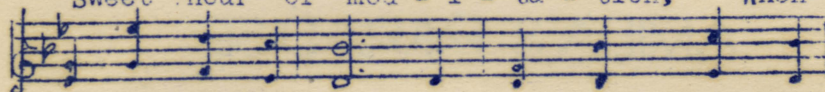
Bright with the rainbow colors,
The sparkling fountains play
And birds of radiant plumage
Send out their music gay.

There happy souls of children,
With joyful songs and play
In that fair land of sunshine
Shall spend an endless day.

RIGHT MEDITATION



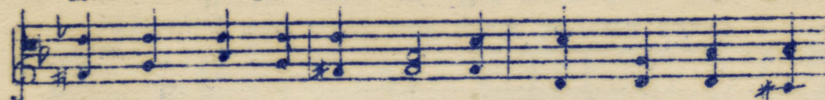
Sweet hour of med - i - ta - tion, The
Sweet hour of med - i - ta - tion, When,
Sweet hour of med - i - ta - tion, When



qui - et hour of peace, When from life's care and
si - lent and a - lone, The mas - ter's word I
oft there come to me, A vi - sion of the



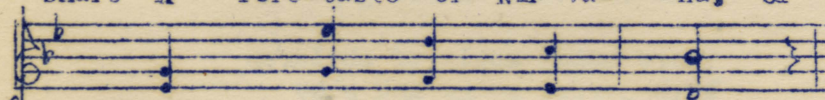
tur - moil I find a blest re - lease. In
pon - der His Truth to make my own, With
Mas - ter Be - neath the Bo - dhi tree; And



si - lent con - tem - plation Now faith and hope I
earn - est pur - pose seek - ing I gath - er more and
with Him in that vig - il my spir - it seems to



win. More light and deep - er knowl - edge New
more Of Wis - dom's ho - ly trea - sure From
share A fore - taste of Nir va - na, Of



strength to con - quer sin.
His ex - haust - less store.
bliss be - yond com - pare.

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

When life is fair And sun - light gilds the
 When comes temp - ta - tion Lur - ing us to

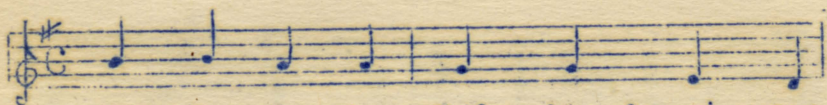
day When for - tune smiles And flow'rs a - dom our
 sin, When doubts and fears As - sail our hearts with

Why Oft let us pause With grate - ful hearts to
 in; This be our prayer The Vic - tory we shall

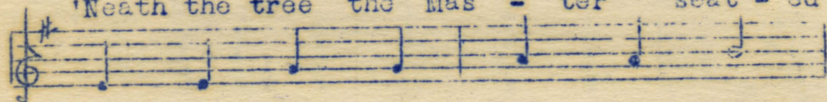
say Na - mu A - mi - da Bu - tsu.
 win Na - mu A - mi - da Bu - tsu.

E'en though our way
 Leads 'neath a darkened sky
 And to our loved ones
 Pain and death draw nigh;
 Our tears may flow
 Yet trustingly we cry—
 Namu Amida Butsu.

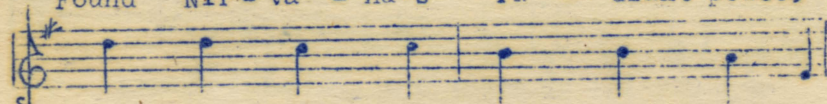
HAPPY CHILDREN'S VOICES



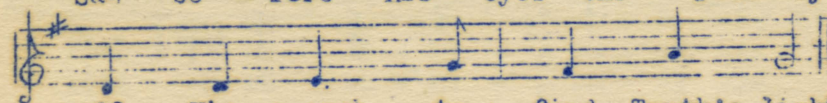
Glad - ly sing the Chil - dren 's voi - ces
How for man - y years he wan - dered
'Neath the tree the Mas - ter seat - ed



In Lord Bud - dha's tem - ple bright,
In the for - ests dark and vast
Found Nir - va - na's ra - diant peace,



As they tell the won - drous stor - y
Till one night up - on His spir - it
Saw be - fore His eyes the Path - way



Of His search to find Truth's light.
Wis - dom's Ho - ly Light was cast.
Where - by all man's ill shall cease.

And the people when they heard Him,
Gladly walked the Eight-fold Way
Leading from the realms of darkness
Into everlasting day.

So shall we His little children,
Listen to His voice so sweet,
As those little Indian children
Whom He gathered at His feet.

GLORY TO BUDDHA.



Soft - ly blew the breez - es



On that sum - mer morn, In Lun - bi-na's

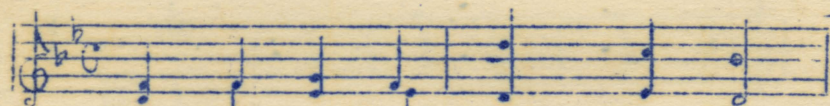


gar - den, where the Lord was born.

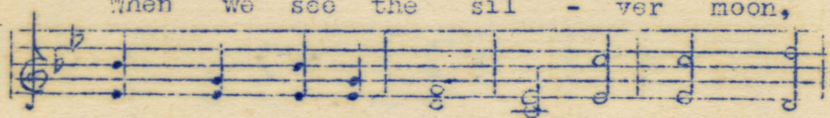
From the earth sprang flowers,
Birds in warbles sang,
While through earth and heaven
Strains of music rang.

Gods and men and angels,
All for worship came,
Glory to Lord Buddha,
Glory to His Name.

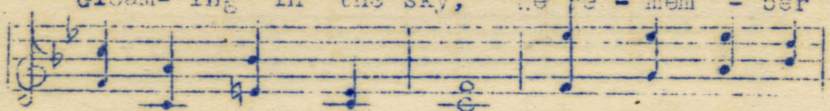
OUR GUARDIAN



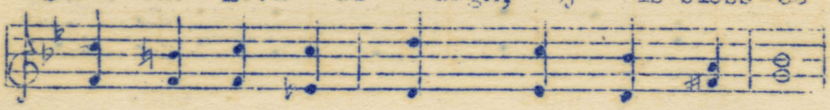
When we see the gold - en sun
When we see the sil - ver moon,



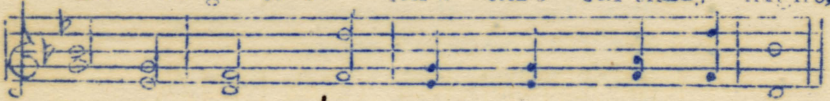
Shin - ing from a - bove, We are mind - ful
Gleam - ing in the sky, We re - mem - ber



Of the Rai - dha's love. O'er us all His
Still our Lord is nigh; By His bless - ed



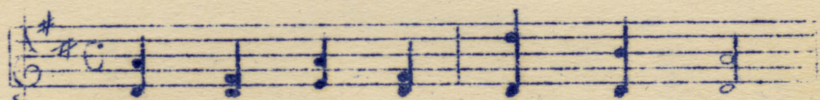
pure com - pas - sion Sheds its stead - fast glow,
Law to guide us thru this earth - ly night,



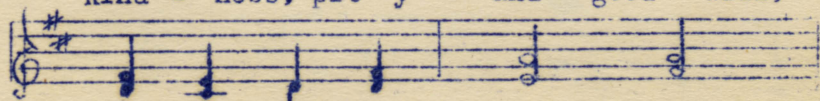
By His Doc - trine Wis - dom's Way to show.
Out of sor - row In - to joy and light.



HAPPY LITTLE CHILDREN



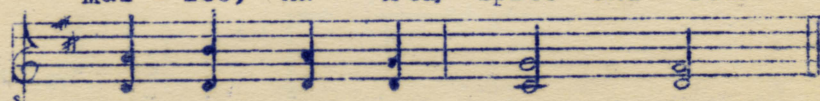
Hap - py lit - tle chil - dren we,
Kind - ness, pit - y and good - will,



By the Dhar - ma keep - ing,
We'll al - ways be shew - ing,



We shall all in love and joy
Mal - ice, ha - tred, spite and fear



Fit re - ward be reap - ing.
From our hearts o'er throw - ing.

MORNING GATHA

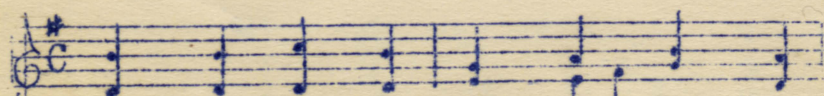


Ear - ly in the morn - ing, We our voi - ces raise
Let the ho - ly tem - ple Now with joy - re - sound
May our deeds like flow - ers Sweet - est per - fume give,

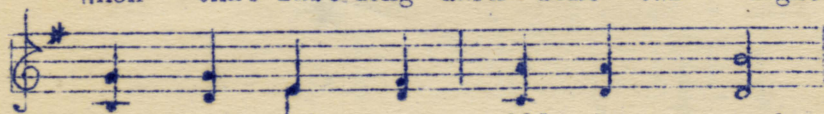


To the gen - tle teach - er Hymns of joy and praise.
Glo - ry to Lord Bud - dha Who Nir - va - na found.
Our re - li - gion preach - ing By the lives we live.

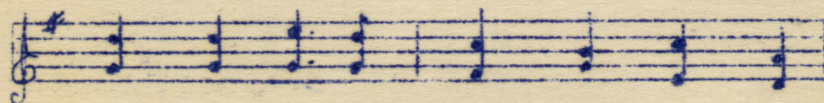
EVENING GATHA



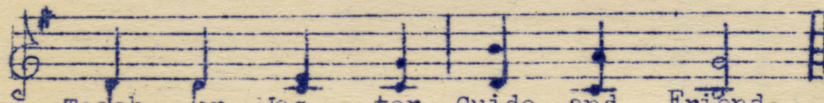
Shad - ows o'er the earth are steal - ing
When that last long dark - some twi - light



Soon the dark - ness will de - scend,
All the lights of earth shall hide,



Glad - ly we a - round thee gath - er
Truth with - in its arms shall hold us



Teach - er, Mas - ter, Guide and Friend.
Bear - ing us a - cross death's tide.

Ever onward, ever upward,
Gently held in Love's embrace,
Till we reach Nirvana's summit,
and behold Truth face to face



BUDDHA SPEAKS TO ME

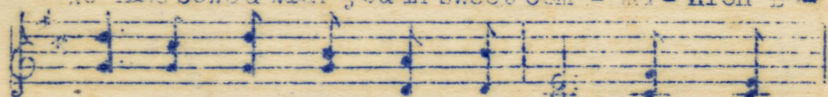
The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words appearing on two lines. The lyrics are: Lord Bud-dha speaks to me In - so - cents Lord Bud - dha speaks to me When sin holds low. "My child, look up and learn, The sway, When pas - sion's fires rise high And Truth I show. Trust not il - lu - sion's vi - sion help seems faraway "Feer not, for I have con - quered Ev - er Bri f and float - ing; For Pas - sions fierce and rag - ing; Tread on - ly Truth can give thee Thy heart's de - sire." the Path I show thee, There - in lies peace."

Lord Buddha speaks to me
In death's dark night,
When closing eyes no more
Can see earth's light:
"My child," He whispers softly,
"Brighter light is shining;
Hold fast the Truth I gave thee
And thou shalt see."

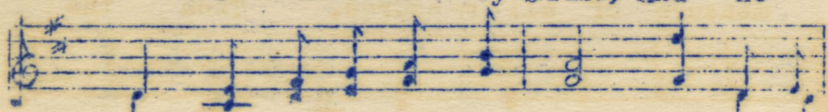
A FAREWELL



Ev-er - more in mem-ry we shall treas - ure The
We have bow'd with you in sweet com - mu - nion Be -



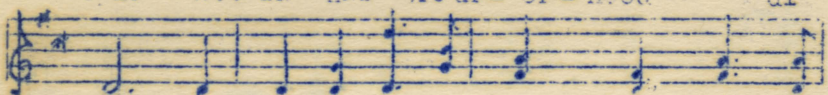
gol - den hours we spent with you Hours that
fore the Bud - dha's ho - ly Sa - crine, and no



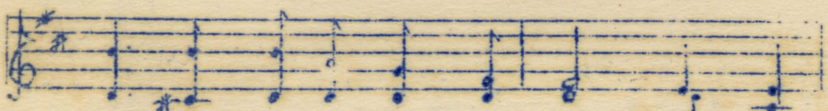
brought to us in full - est meas - ure All the
part - ing e'er can rend the u - nion Of our



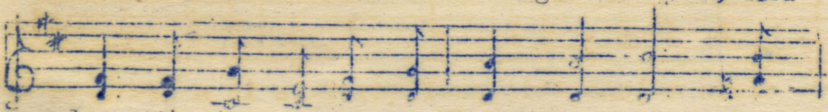
bless - ings and the joys of friend - ship
spir - its in His Broth - er - hood di



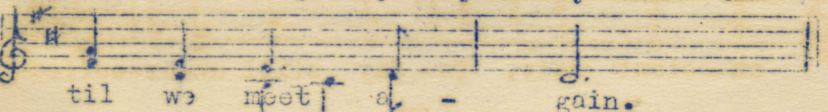
true:
vine: Fare - well to you Our friends so true; May



Love and Truth E - ter - nal guide you, and



love di - vine up - on your pathway shine Un -

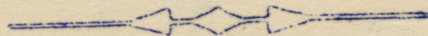


til we meet a - gain.

SWEET NIRVANA

Sweet Nir-va-na, High-est Jhana: Rap-ture
swee - ter than all pleasures, Thou the
measure of all measures, Thou the
treasure of all treasures; O im-
mor - tal Bud - dha - hood.

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is simple and melodic, typical of early 20th-century sheet music.



AN ANCIENT RULE

Hate is not o-ver-come by hate; By
love a-lone 'tis quelled; This is a truth of
an-cient date, To-day still un-ex-celled

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is simple and melodic, typical of early 20th-century sheet music.