

Salutations to the Dawn

I.

Lao - Tsu

Go to the people
Live among them
Love them
Learn from them
Start with what they know

Go to the people
Live among them
Serve them
Plan with them
Build on what they know

And when the best leaders leave the people will say:
“We have done it ourselves.”

II.

Isaiah 58 (paraphrase)

To break the fetters of injustice
And unfasten the throngs of the yoke
To set the oppressed free and
Break every yoke

Fast by sharing your food with the hungry,
Bring to your house the unsheltered and needy.
Clothe the man you see naked and
Do not turn way from you own kin.

Then will your light break forth as the morning light
And your healing will come speedily.
Your righteousness will be your vanguard;
The glory of Yahweh will be your rear-guard.

The you will call and Yahweh will answer.
You will cry and He will say,
“I am here.”

III.

St. Ignatius of Loyola:

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.

To give and not count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to ask for reward,
Save that of knowing that I do Your will.

IV.

Anonymous - from the Sanskrit:

Listen to the exhortation of the dawn.
Look to this day!
For ... it is life, the very Life of Life.

In its brief course lie all the Varieties and Realities of your existence:
The Bliss of Growth,
The Glory of Action,
The Splendor of Beauty.

For yesterday is but a Dream and
Tomorrow is only a Vision;
But today, well-lived, make every Yesterday a
Dream of Happiness and every Tomorrow a
Vision of Hope.

Look well, therefore, to this Day!

Such is the Salutation of the dawn.