

Novena for Paolo

First Day

Surat Al-Fātiḥah

(The Opener)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ١

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ٢

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ٣

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ٤

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ٥

أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ٦

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا

الضَّالِّينَ ٧

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds;

Most Gracious, Most Merciful;

Master of the Day of Judgment.

Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek.

Show us the straight way,

The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose (portion)
is not wrath, and who go not astray.

Translation: Yusuf Ali

Words from Paolo

It is in a future of stance, not forecast, that Jews, Christians and Muslims, we will ally and recognize each other. I have a deep faith that Jerusalem will one day be the blessed tent of our brotherhood in Abraham, for the blessing of the world. In the mist of this appalling Syrian disaster, I keep a complete faith that this country, this land, this people and even the Muslim fighters who came from abroad, even the Islamists of Al Qaida who are here, that we all together will live an experience of conversion to God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. And this will be a turn in the history of Islam and of its relation to other communities. Muslims have always said it: there is a special blessing in this land of Sham, where men and women are offered to God, being called “abdal”, for the forgiving and reform of the Islamic community in this country. From now on, it is the whole country which is martyr, suffering for Islam and for the world. From generations to generations, the word Syria shall be synonym of resurrection.

Extract from « Rage and Light » (La Rage et la lumière, 2013)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.