

Kahil gibran religion

AND an old priest said, Speak to us of Religion.

And he said:

Have I spoken this day of aught else?

*Is not religion all deeds and all reflection,
And that which is neither deed nor re-
flection, but a wonder and a surprise ever
springing in the soul, even while the hands
hew the stone or tend the loom?*

*Who can separate his faith from his ac-
tions, or his belief from his occupations?*

*Who can spread his hours before him,
saying, "This for God and this for myself;
This for my soul, and this other for my
body?"*

*All your hours are wings that beat through
space from self to self.*

*He who wears his morality but as his best
garment were better naked.*

*The wind and the sun will tear no holes
in his skin.*

*And he who defines his conduct by ethics
imprisons his song-bird in a cage.*

*The freest song comes not through bars
and wires.*

*And he to whom worshiping is a win-
dow, to open but also to shut, has not yet
visited the house of his soul whose windows
are from dawn to dawn.*

*Your daily life is your temple and your
religion.*

*Whenever you enter into it take with
you your all.*

*Take the plough and the forge and the
mallet and the lute,
The things you have fashioned in neces-
sity or for delight.*

*For in revery you cannot rise above your
achievements nor fall lower than your fail-
ures.*

And take with you all men:

*For in adoration you cannot fly higher
than their hopes nor humble yourself lower
than their despair.*

*And if you would know God be not
therefore a solver of riddles.*

*Rather look about you and you shall see
Him playing with your children.*

*And look into space; you shall see Him
walking in the cloud, outstretching His arms
in the lightning and descending in rain.*

*You shall see Him smiling in flowers,
then rising and waving His hands in trees.*
