

IN WHICH TONGUE DOES OUR GOD SPEAK? ©
(Conversation between mother and child)

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Child

1. *Mom,*
In which tongue does our God speak?
English, Mandarin, Yupik²?
Sanskrit, Swahili³, Tajik⁴?
Hebrew, Arabic, or Greek?

Mummy

2. *Dear,*
His tongue is spiritual;
It talks to our heart and mind.
Think of it as U-R-L
Reaching all of humankind.

Child

3. To find God, where should I be?
In Banaras⁵ or Bali⁶?
In Cordova⁷ or Cali⁸?
In Mexico or Mali⁹?

Mummy

4. *Dear,*
Spaceship earth is so sacred
From vales and dales to high lands;
From the poles oh so frigid
To the hot Saharan sands.

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² Central Alaskan language.

³ National language of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

⁴ National language of Tajikistan.

⁵ Hindu holy city in India.

⁶ Indonesian island.

⁷ City in Spain.

⁸ City in Columbia, South America.

⁹ Country in West Africa.

- Child
5. To talk to Him, what's best day?
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday, or some lunar day?

- Mummy
6. *Dear,*
Many folks have set aside
A special day to reach Him;
To honor that loving Guide
Through prayers in prose and hymn.

- Child
Then . . .
7. Why do all religions
Use different praying rules?
They have different icons,
And follow different schools?

- Mummy
My child,
8. Tis nice to have rites n' rule,
For folks to simply follow.
Then devotees look so cool
With love, they all beam and glow!

- Child
9. If all faiths have different rules,
And they follow different schools,
How can their thoughts be the same?
What one goal can they all claim?

- Mummy
10. *Dear,*
Tis the goal of ev'ry faith,
To try to reach Him always;
To save us from any scathe,
And to carry no malaise.

- Child
11. Then why do some people fight
And say my way is the best;
My way is forever right,
And other ways I detest?

- Mummy
12. Ev'ry faith has good teachings
And guidance that's inclusive;
Let us follow these preachings
And ponder what's exclusive.
- Child
13. Thank you so much mother dear,
You have eased my troubled mind.
I must be ever sincere,
To my folks and humankind.
- Mummy
14. Let's not simply tolerate;
From our hearts, let's cleanse all hate.
Let's make this world Shangri-La¹⁰,
Let us practice aloha.
15. Mummy, child
Let us practice aloha
Let's embrace in aloha;
Let's hongī¹¹ in aloha;
Let's hula in aloha;
16. Mazwara¹² and yampara¹³,
Yow¹⁴, yar¹⁵ and kia ora¹⁶,
Marahaba¹⁷, namaskara¹⁸,
Talofa¹⁹, aw ni bara²⁰
17. A - - lo - - ha!

¹⁰ Chinese fairy tale about paradise on earth.

¹¹ Traditional Māori greeting (New Zealand), by pressing one's nose to another person's nose.

¹² "Hello" in the Okavango language (Namibia).

¹³ "Hello" in Ulwa (Nicaragua)

¹⁴ "Hello" among the Nuxalk people (Canada).

¹⁵ "Hello" among the Warumungu people (Australia).

¹⁶ "Hello" among the Maoris (New Zealand).

¹⁷ "Hello" in Persian (Iran).

¹⁸ "Hello" in Hindi and several other Indian languages.

¹⁹ "Hello" in Samoa

²⁰ "Hello" in Mali, Africa.