

QUEEN'S PRAYER (KE ALOHA O KA HAKU)

`O kou aloha nô Your loving mercy
Aia i ka lani Is as high as Heaven
A `o Kou `oia `i`o And your truth
He hemolelo ho`i So perfect

Ko`u noho mihi `ana I live in sorrow
A pa`ahao `ia Imprisoned
`O `oe ku`u lama You are my light
Kou nani ko`u ko`o Your glory, my support

Mai nânâ `ino`ino Behold not with malevolence
Nâ hewa o kânaka The sins of man
Akä e huikala But forgive
A ma`ema`e nô And cleanse

No laïla e ka Haku And so, o Lord
Ma lalo o kou `êheu Protect us beneath your wings
Kô mâkou maluhia And let peace be our portion
A mau loa aku nô Now and forever more

Prayer of Queen Lii'uokalani, March 22, 1895, which she composed after having been deposed by the missionary party, robbed of her personal possessions, and placed under house arrest. This prayer she dedicated to Princess Victoria Ka'iulani, her heir apparent to the throne.



Words of harm towards my person had been openly spoken by the revolutionists; spies were in my household, and surrounded my house by day and by night; spies were also stationed at the steps of the Congregational church opposite my residence, to take note of those who entered my gates, how long they remained, and when they went out. My respect for true religion prevents my stating the active part one of the preachers of God's Word took in this espionage.

. . . That first night of my imprisonment was the longest night I have ever passed in my life; it seemed as though the dawn of day would never come. I found in my bag a small Book of Common prayer according to the ritual of the Episcopal Church. It was a great comfort to me, . . . Here, perhaps, I may say, that although I had been a regular attendant on the Presbyterian worship since my childhood, a constant contributor to all the missionary societies, and had helped to build their churches and ornament the walls, giving my time and musical ability freely to make their meetings attractive to my people, yet none of these pious church members or clergymen remembered me in my prison.

. . . To this day, the only documents which have been returned to me is my will. Never since have I been able to find the private papers of my husband nor those of mine that had been kept by me for use or reference, and which had no relation to political events.

If we have nourished in our bosom those who have sought our ruin, it has been because they were of the people whom we believed to be our dearest friends and allies. If we did not by force resist their final outrage, it was because we could not do so without striking at the military force of the United States.

. . . So it happens that, overawed by the power of the United States to the extent that they can neither themselves throw off the usurpers, nor obtain assistance from other friendly states, the people of the Islands have no voice in determining their future, but are virtually relegated to the condition of the aborigines of the American continent.

Oh honest Americans, as Christians hear me for my down-trodden people! Their form of government is as dear to them as yours is precious to you. Quite as warmly as you love, so they love theirs. . . . do not covet the little vineyard of Naboth's, so far from your shores, lest the punishment of Ahab fall upon you, if not in your day, in that of your children, for "be not deceived, God is not mocked."
(Queen Lili'uokalani)

Queen Lili'uokalani

Whispering wind,

Soaring bird,

Gently rolling sea,

Dancing waves,

Flying fish,

Beckoning to me.

Shining sail,

Steady ship,

Gather in my chart.

Guiding stars,

Silver moon,

Call me to depart.

The rolling sea is keeper of my heart.

We are the trade winds,

Free the sea birds rise,

Let us to the horizon go

Where there's open sky.

Hear how the wind blows,

Listen to the sea,

Come to my fair Islands,

Come away with me.

("Song of the Sea." Princess Lili'uokalani)

