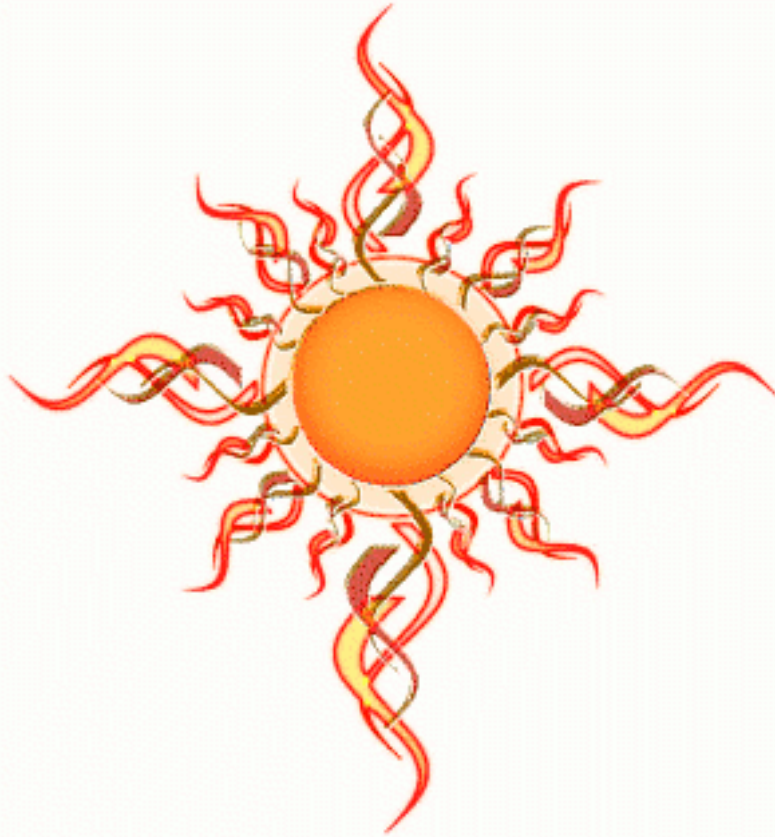


BLESSING PRAYER IN TIME OF FIRE



BLESSED ARE YOU,
LORD OUR GOD,
ruler of the Universe,
creator of earth, water,
wind and fire!

Fill your people with abundant peace,
flowing forth from the bounty
of your loving hand.

Raise up from the earth
nourishment for body and soul.

Send merciful rain

to quench the parched soil
transforming the land
into the bountiful garden of life,
bringing forth rivers flowing
into the eternity of the sea.

Let your holy breath move like the roaring wind

breaking through every fear, fanning the flames of love and hope,
blowing away the spirits of despair and separation.

May the fire of your Spirit

consume every vestige of hatred and division,
bringing light into the darkness and warmth into the cold.

Inflame the gift of service
that earth and life, valued and saved, may be filled with gratitude.

Protect your servants

who stand against the fires of destruction and the violent flames of ruin.

Keep them safe in your presence
that in your mighty fire they may be touched by your loving heart.



Guard those who, this day and every day, near and far away,
work to quench the inferno of chaos
and seek to save and restore earth and life, hope and promise.

**BE WITH THEM, THAT THEY WHO PROTECT AND SERVE
MAY THEMSELVES BE FORTIFIED AND ENCOURAGED.**

Bless those who suffer loss of land, home and house:
nurture them with companionship
and the support of a giving community,
that they may be renewed and restored
in the abundance of your generous love.

BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD OUR GOD,
ruler of the Universe,
creator of earth, water,
wind and fire.

