

A Flame in Every Heart

*God lights a flame in every heart the moment it is conceived;
that is our commonality.*

*When a person dies, that commonality in God is diminished,
and so are all of us who share in it.*

*So, when John Donne said, "Ask not for whom the bell tolls ... it
tolls for you", and then Hemingway expanded upon it, an open
mind hears that humanity is always diminished upon the death of
one of its members.*

*Regardless of the sins and malfeasances of any individual, when
the flame in that individual's heart goes out we are all diminished
--- so only the truly blind can see that as something to cheer about.*

*Whether you kneel at a pew, prostrate yourself in a mosque or
temple, worship in a synagogue or honour your Maker in whatever
manifestation you may choose, that flame, that spark, is still our
commonality.*

*Turbans, prayer shawls, crosses, beads and sacred smoke cannot
be hills to die on --- but merely accoutrements for veneration. So
look beyond, look deeper, and do not let these little trees obscure the
forest you must see if you wish to traverse it.*