Independence (Day) Prayer

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the 69th anniversary of Indonesia's Declaration of Independence

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Compassionate

O God, our God!
O Beauty,
and Source of all that is beautiful!
O Creator,
Who pours His infinite blessings upon this world!
O Generous and Bountiful [God],
Who have bestowed upon us this beautiful nation
and its people, who adore beauty!

Oh God,
Who have granted us the beauty of independence.
For the sake of Your [99] Exalted Names,
Which are the Most Beautiful!
For the sake of Your Holy Attributes, Which are Most Beautiful!
For the sake of Your creation, which is so richly beautiful,
Bless us, our leaders and our people
that we may perceive and be truly grateful
for the beauty of Your blessings:
the beauty of being free, and of freedom itself;
the beauty of living, and of life itself;
the beauty of being human, and of humanity itself;
the beauty of working, and of work itself;
the beauty of being simple, and of simplicity itself;
the beauty of loving, and of being loved;
the beauty of wisdom and justice;
the beauty of modesty and self-knowledge;
the beauty of possessing rights and yet remaining humble;
the beauty of responsibility and self-respect.
Grant us, our leaders and our people
the ability to feel and express gratitude for our enjoyment of Your blessings.

Rescue and preserve our souls
by forging within us a noble character worthy of Your favor,
free from any and all stains that mar the beauty
of our human dignity.
Guide us, our leaders and our people
to the path of beauty
that leads to the sublime experience
of our own [true] freedom.
Strengthen us inwardly and outwardly
to resist the temptations of false beauty
that divert us from the true beauty
of our humanity and [inner, spiritual] freedom.
Liberate us from the fetters of every form of bondage except to You,
including the tyranny of our own ego and passions.
Strengthen us body and soul,
that we may safeguard the beauty of our nation.

Oh King of Kings! Sovereign of the Universe!
All-Ruling and Omnipotent God!
Do not place us
—because of our sins—
beneath the dominion of earthly rulers who do not fear You,
nor feel any love or compassion for us.
Bless our people with leaders
whose hearts are filled with the Light and Beauty of Your Love,
so that their own love and compassion will overflow
and envelope every member of society.
Do not punish us with rulers who are a sign and reflection of
Your anger towards our people.

Oh Light of Lights, above every light!
Illuminate our eyes and vision with Your Light!
Illuminate our ears and hearing with Your Light!
Illuminate our mouths and words with Your Light!
Illuminate our hearts and convictions with Your Light!
Illuminate our thoughts and actions with Your Light!
Illuminate our surroundings with Your Light
to the left and to the right
above and below us!

Illuminate us with Your Light!
Illuminate us with Your Light, oh Light of Lights
that we may perceive
the beauty of Your creation
and allow it to penetrate and soften our hearts;
that we may perceive the beauty of Your blessings
and be grateful;
that we may perceive the beauty of Your path, which is straight,
and follow it;
that we may recognize the crooked ugliness of Satan's path,
and avoid it.

Illuminate us with Your Light, oh Light of Lights,
that we may perceive the beauty of truth
and follow it;
that we may perceive the ugliness of falsehood
and distance ourselves from it;
that we may perceive the beauty of honesty
and fully embrace it.
that we may perceive the evil of lies
and guard against them.

Illuminate us with Your Light, oh Light of Lights!
Destroy the darkness within us and leave not a single trace!
Oh Light of Lights, above every light,
do not allow
false worship and envy
hatred and the desire to harm others
conceit and arrogance
greed and cruelty
spite and revenge
falsehood and hypocrisy
self-praise and excessive love for this world
forgetfulness of the Day of Judgment and fear of death
or any other dark shadow
to cast a veil upon the vision of our hearts
and thus prevent us from
beholding the Infinite Beauty of Your Face
and receiving Your Love,
by seeking and attaining Your Presence.

Oh God, Our God, the All-Merciful One!
Forgive us our sins
and those of our leaders and people.
Oh God, Our God,
the Beneficent, the Compassionate!
Bless our nation and its people.
Liberate us [from spiritual ignorance] and fulfill our prayer.

Amen.