

A Father's Prayer

By Douglas McArthur

sourced from The Hindu Young World, Saturday, July 29, 2000

These lines were penned by the American general

Douglas Mac Arthur while he was commanding the defence of the Philippines during World War II

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenges. Let him learn to stand up in the storm. Let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart is clear, whose goals will be high, a son who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past .

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humour, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."