

## Gabriela Mistral: The Teacher's Prayer

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### **The Teacher's Prayer**

**Lord,** you who taught, forgive me that I teach; forgive me that I bear the name of teacher, the name you bore on earth. Grant me such devoted love for my school that not even beauty's flame will detract from my faithful tenderness.

**Master,** make my fervor long-lasting and my disillusion brief. Uproot from me this impure desire for justice that still troubles me, the petty protest that rises up within me when I am hurt. Let not the incomprehension of others trouble me, or the forgetfulness of those I have taught sadden me.

**Let me be** more maternal than a mother; able to love and defend with all of a mother's fervor the child that is not flesh of my flesh. Grant that I may be successful in molding one of my pupils into a perfect poem, and let me leave within her my deepest-felt melody that she may sing for you when my lips shall sing no more.

**Make me strong** in my faith that your Gospel is possible in my time, so that I do not renounce the daily battle to make it live. Let your luminous radiance descend upon my modest school as it did upon the barefoot children who surrounded you.

**Make me strong** even in my weakness as a woman, and particularly as a poor woman. Make me scorn all power that is not pure, and all duress that is not your flaming will upon my life.

**more...**

**Source:** [To hamomilaki -arlindo-correia.com](http://Tohamomilaki-arlindo-correia.com)