

# Michael Jackson

## The Man and the Message

Getting to know his greatest concerns  
through his own words



“I really do wish people could understand me some day.” Michael Jackson

*The following text consists of quotes which are taken from radio and TV interviews, speeches and public statements, poems and reflections, song lyrics, handwritten notes and letters. The earliest quote is from 1972, the latest from 2009. Since the media rather concentrated on reports in terms of gossip and scandal, this compilation is designed as an opportunity to get an impression of Michael Jackson's message and his most important concerns...*

## LOVE

There are two kinds of music: One comes from the strings of a guitar, the other from the strings of the heart. One sound comes from a chamber orchestra, the other from the beating of the heart's chamber. One comes from an instrument of graphite and wood, the other from an organ of flesh and blood.

This loftier music [...] is more pleasing than the notes of the most gifted composers, more moving than a marching band, more harmonious than a thousand voices joined in hymn and more powerful than all the world's percussion instruments combined. That is the sweet sound of love.

Human knowledge consists not only of libraries of parchment and ink – it is also comprised of the volumes of knowledge that are written on the human heart, chiseled on the human soul, and engraved on the human psyche.

Food is something we all need physically, but so is love, the deeper nourishment, that turns us into who we are.

Love, ladies and gentlemen, is the human family's most precious legacy, its richest bequest, its golden inheritance. And it is a treasure that is handed down from one generation to another. Previous ages may not have had the wealth we enjoy. Their houses may have lacked electricity, and they squeezed their many kids into small homes without central heating. But those homes had no darkness, nor were they cold. They were lit bright with the glow of love and they were warmed snugly by the very heat of the human heart. Parents, undistracted by the lust for luxury and status, accorded their children primacy in their lives.

Just a generation ago, it was this sound [of love] that could be heard in every turn in every town. It was the sound of love that echoed in the living-room when a father giggled with his son or a mother tickled a small infant child. It was the sound of love that echoed from children's literary classes as the parents read their children tales before they went to bed. And it was the sound of love that reverberated in their dinner conversations. Between parents and children, not just once a year, but should be discovered everyday for peace and prosper.

Sadly, that sound has become a lost melody, a forgotten refrain, an empty tune. And all we have in its place today is a dark and terrible noise. Instead of dinner conversations, there is the noise of video games. Instead of homework, there is the din of the evening news. And instead of regular conversations between parents and children [...], there is the deafening sound of silence.

Generation O let us call it, that has now picked up the torch from Generation X. The O stands for a generation that has everything on the outside – wealth, success, fancy clothing and fancy cars, but an aching emptiness on the inside. That cavity in our chests, that barrenness at our core, that void in our center, is the place where the heart once beat and which love once occupied.

The foundation of all human knowledge, the beginning of human consciousness, must be that each and every one of us is an object of love. Before you know if you have red hair or brown, before you know if you are black or white, before you know of what religion you are a part, you have to know that you are loved.

If you enter this world knowing you are loved and you leave this world knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with.

A professor may degrade you, but you will not feel degraded.

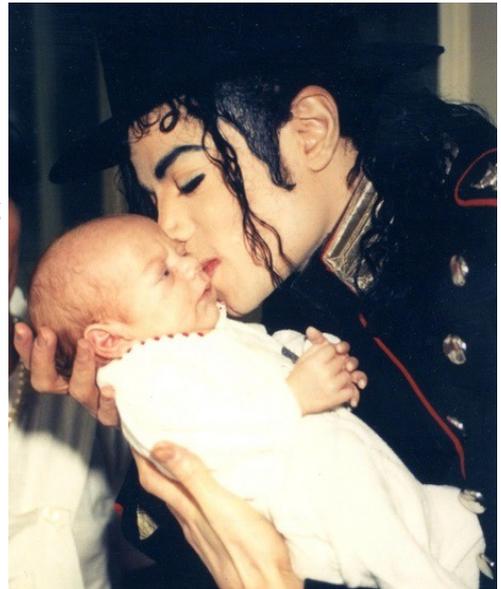
A boss may crush you, but you will not be crushed.

A corporate gladiator might vanquish you, but you will still triumph.

How could any of them truly prevail in pulling you down?  
For you know that you are an object worthy of love. The rest is just packaging.  
But if you don't have that memory of being loved, you are condemned to search the world for something to fill you up. But no matter how much money you make or how famous you become, you will still feel empty. What you are really searching for is unconditional love, unqualified acceptance.

Traveling the world has been a great education for me. And if there is one insight I've had, it is this: Wherever you go, in every country, on every continent, people yearn and hunger for one thing – to love and be loved. Love transcends international boundaries and heals the wounds of hatred, racial prejudice, bigotry and ignorance. It is the ultimate truth at the heart of all creation.

Ever since I was a child, I realized I had a lot of love to share from my soul. [...] The black tradition is a tradition of soul, which is a gift of love and joy. Soul is the most precious thing you can share because you're sharing yourself, and the world needs that gift now more than ever. The child with AIDS in the ghetto is waiting for you, along with the starving people in Africa and everyone else who needs healing. Make the world more beautiful by sharing with me the wonderful feeling you get when your soul is lifted up to become pure love.



Let us take this love and give it to all the people everywhere in every corner of the earth. And that's what we can give. And that will make the difference. That will make the change. It's very important.

It's been my dream since I was a child to somehow unite people of the world through love and music.

I want to reach every demographic I can through the love and joy and simplicity of music.

We are one global family.

I love you all, and we are family. Just know that: We are a family. We have to bring love back into the world, to remind the world that love is important. Love is important – to love each other. We are all one.

I want everybody in the world to be on one page: A page titled love.

Make love your weapon to overcome any evil.

Love is strong, it only cares for joyful giving.

Let's love one another, let's forget hatred and turn to those who are suffering. Not just today, but every day. Join me in healing the world and making it a better place.

Love, joy and peace for the world, that's what I want – peace for the world and love.

Love is my message.

[It] is the most important thing in the world. It's all for love. L-O-V-E.

Love, just love. It's as simple as that.

People need love. It's the most powerful emotion in the world.



The power of love is amazing.

We should just give a little more attention to the power of love and caring and faith and prayer.

Just sending your love has the power to heal.

That's what the world needs now: more love – more heart.

I never take it for granted. To be loved is a wonderful thing. That's the main reason I do this.

Everything I do is out of love, because I love what I do.

Whatever good I can do, I do it because I love people and I love making them happy.

I would never stop helping and loving people the way Jesus said to. He said, "Continue to love. Always love."

Follow the Golden Rule. Be kind to your neighbors, love them as much as you would love yourself, do unto others.

I try to be loving, and I try to find love and see love in all things.

Being humble and believing in yourself and having true love in your heart for the world, and really trying to help people through lyrics and the love of music and dance, because I truly do love people very much.

I just simply want to be loved wherever I go, all over the world, because I love people of all races from my heart with true affection.

Success, fame and fortune – they are all illusions. All there is that is real is the friendship that two people can share. I think that sums it up because the real bottom line is love and friendship. The rest just comes afterwards. I like to think of everybody I entertain as being a friend. But I do particularly love children.

It's easy to say I love you with your mouth. But I like when people say I love you with their heart.

The greatest gift you can give someone is yourself. To give someone a piece of your heart is worth more than all the wealth in the world.

Love is something that's so easy to give, but not a lot of people are willing to offer that part of them.

Unconditional love is all you have. You can't overdose on [unconditional] love, you never can. It's a beautiful thing.

Love means complete self-honesty.

It is like a bar of soap in the bathtub, you have it in your hand until you hold on too tight. Some people spend their lives looking for love outside themselves. They think they have to grasp it in order to have it. But love slips away like that wet bar of soap. Holding on to love is not wrong, but you need to learn to hold it lightly, caressingly. Let it fly when it wants. When it's allowed to be free, love is what makes life alive, joyful, and new. It's the juice and energy that motivates my music, my dancing, everything. As long as love is in my heart, it's everywhere.

Know a love that never interferes, that watches from beyond, that breathes free in the invisible air.

Be humble, believe in yourself and have the love of the world in your heart.

We need peace, we need giving, we need love, we need unity.

We must learn to live and love each other before it's too late.

Let's rejoice together in love, unity and conciliation. Let's heal everybody and, thus, heal ourselves.



For me, love is something very pure.

Love works two ways – giving and receiving.

I really believe that you know how to love from the moment you're born.

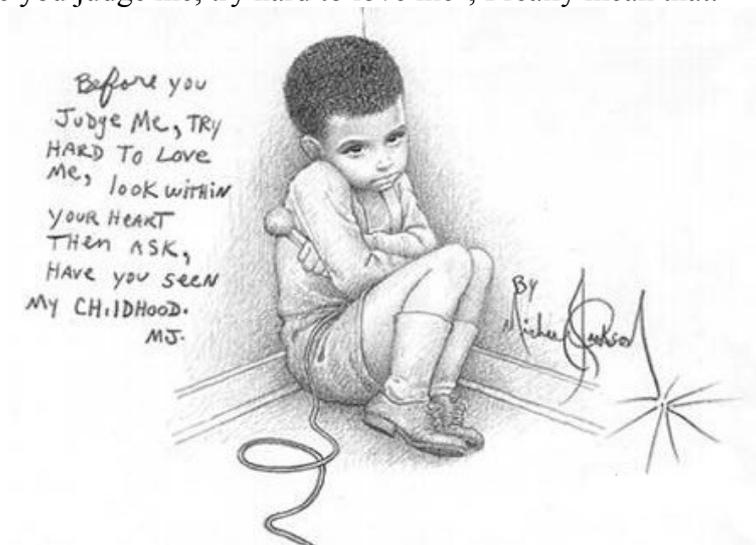
It is very important to be loved and to tell people that you love them, and to look in their eyes and say it.

You never know how long you have with someone, so don't forget to say I love you while you can.

It hurts when you lose someone you love. But people always leave something behind for you to remember them forever.

As long as you place me in your heart, I will always be with you.

When I sing, "before you judge me, try hard to love me", I really mean that.



I try so hard to block out negativity. I really wish that negativity and hate didn't exist in this world.

If I could make anything disappear, it would be hate.

We are the only species who destroys their own.

We're disconnected from love, we're disrespecting each other

I don't think I could deliberately hurt somebody who did me wrong. I just wouldn't have anything more to do with them. I'd just put them out of my mind. It seems there's not much brotherly love going around these days. There should be more of it, and then I think things would be a lot better for everybody.

All for one and one for all is what we all should be, but instead we go and fight each other – now that wasn't meant to be. [...] Some of us have a heart of stone and feel as cold as ice. Love can make a change in you, take a wrong and make things right. If you only knew how it was planned for life to really be – you would join in. You won't hesitate. You will help bring the harmony.

Life should be harmony in this world of self-destruction.

I'm calling upon all the world's children [...] to forgive our parents if we felt neglected. Forgive them and teach them how to love again.

They say that parenting is like dancing. You take one step, your child takes another. I have discovered that getting parents to re-dedicate themselves to their children is only half the story. The other half is preparing the children to re-accept their parents.

As an adult and as a parent, I realize that I cannot be a whole human being, nor a parent capable of unconditional love, until I put to rest the ghosts of my own childhood.

I have begun to see that even my father's harshness was a kind of love, an imperfect love, to be sure, but love nonetheless. He pushed me because he loved me. Because he wanted no man ever to look

down at his offspring. And now with time, rather than bitterness, I feel blessing. In the place of anger, I have found absolution. And in the place of revenge, I have found reconciliation. And my initial fury has slowly given way to forgiveness.

Out of the criticism came forgiveness. The [Oxford] speech was about how to forgive our parents for their wrongdoing and laziness. And I had a lot of harsh bitterness embedded in my soul. It was so bad. [...] I love [my father] and I totally forgive him.

We have all been someone's child, and we know that despite the very best of plans and efforts, mistakes will always occur. That's just being human.

Live up to the fifth of the Ten Commandments. Honor your parents by not judging them. Give them the benefit of the doubt.

That is why I want to forgive my father and to stop judging him. I want to forgive my father because I want a father, and this is the only one that I've got. I want the weight of my past lifted from my shoulders and I want to be free to step into a new relationship with my father for the rest of my life, unhindered by the goblins of the past.

To all of you [...] who feel let down by your parents, I ask you to let down your disappointment. To all of you tonight who feel cheated by your fathers or mothers, I ask you not to cheat yourself further. And to all of you who wish to push your parents away, I ask you to extend your hand to them instead. I am asking you, I am asking myself, to give our parents the gift of unconditional love, so that they too may learn how to love from us, their children, so that love will finally be restored to a desolate and lonely world.

Mahatma Gandhi said: "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." [...] Be strong. Beyond being strong, rise to the greatest challenge of all – to restore that broken covenant. We must all overcome whatever crippling effects our childhoods may have had on our lives and, in the words of Jesse Jackson, forgive each other, redeem each other and move on.

An ancient Biblical prophecy [...] says that a new world and a new time would come, when the hearts of the parents would be restored through the hearts of their children. My friends, we are that world, we are those children.

[Let's] focus on loving one another and giving. Let's do this, not just one day of the year, but for 365 days.

Let us dream of tomorrow, where we can truly love from the soul, and know love as the ultimate truth at the heart of all creation.

## **LIFE AND ITS PURPOSE**

In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to comfort. In a world filled with despair, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe.

My mission is healing. Pure and simple.

I'm looking forward to [...] spread the message of global love, in the hope that others too will be moved to do their share to help heal the world.

We have to heal our planet and we have to heal ourselves. We have to weave our life like a web because we are part of this web. The environment is our extended body and the pulse of love that orchestrates the symphony of the universe is playing on its music in the deepest recesses of our souls.

Let us join together in love, unity, consciousness and make a sacred pledge to heal each other and, thus, heal ourselves. Let us make a covenant in life, let us celebrate the joy of renewal and healing – especially the children of the world.



Do I really believe that we can heal this world that is riddled with war and genocide, even today? And do I really think that we can heal our children, the same children who can enter their schools with guns and hatred and shoot down their classmates, like they did at Columbine? Or children who can beat a defenseless toddler to death, like the tragic story of Jamie Bulger? Of course I do!

I always wish the world could be a better place.

I hope that our next generation will get to see a peaceful world, not the way things are going now.

It all begins with forgiveness, because to heal the world, we first have to heal ourselves. And to heal the kids, we first have to heal the child within each and everyone of us.

Start with the man in the mirror. Start with yourself. Don't be looking at all the other things. Start with you.

"Man in the Mirror" is a great message. [...] If John Lennon was alive, he could really relate to that song because it says that if you want to make the world a better place, you have to work on yourself and change first. It's the same thing Kennedy was talking about when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make a change. [...] That's the truth. That's what Martin Luther King meant and Gandhi, too. That's what I believe.

It is my philosophy, too: "If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself, and then make a change". People don't look at themselves honestly. They don't look at themselves and point the finger, it's always the other guy's fault. You should change yourself. Look at yourself, make better of yourself.



The person you look at in the mirror, is responsible for your actions to be good or bad.

We must first change ourselves if we want to change the world.

Hope is such a beautiful word, but it often seems very fragile. Life is still being needlessly hurt and destroyed.

I pray that we continue to serve the world in a positive way, not a negative way and not hurt anyone.

It's like when a mother sends her child off to war, they don't know if they're ever gonna come back, you know? How can we look at such things happening and not want to do something? How can we turn our heads and pretend as if we don't see it? I can't see people in pain and pretend as if it's not there.

I just want to go to Yugoslavia and hug everyone of those children and tell them I love them. The TV footage just breaks my heart. It's just horrifying. I have to turn the set off – it makes me cry every day. It's time we did something. It's not enough to turn your head and pretend it doesn't exist. [...] I want those people to know I love them, that we all love them. They are my family, my children. They desperately need our money now to help them. We are all doing too much sitting back and reading and watching TV saying how awful it is and not actually doing something about it.

In 1992, Sarajevo has become a symbol of so much that is tragic, but avoidable in our world. Prejudice and ethnic hatred, the destruction of the environment, the shattering of families and of centuries-old communities.

I'm not into politics and I don't talk about religion. But I think it's totally wrong and ignorant to hurt people, to hurt innocent children over some political or religious issue. I think it's genocide. I think it's wrong. Ethnic cleansing? It's ignorant! Ethnic cleansing – that's ignorant, it's stupid.

We're innocently standing by, watching people lose their lives. It seems as if we have no voice. It's time for us to make a choice. [...] There's nothing that can't be done, if we raise our voice as one. [...] They've gotta hear it from us. We can't take it – we've already had enough!

I can't ignore someone that's in need or is hurting. How can people just turn their heads from something like that.

I'm not one to sit back and point the finger and say, "Oh I feel bad for what happened to them." I want to do something, to give, to help those who lost their parents, who lost their mothers and their fathers. Those are our people. Those are our children. Those are our parents. I want the whole world to sing [the song "What More Can I Give?"], to bring us together as a world, because a song is a mantra, something you repeat over and over.

One thing I didn't like about the "We Are The World" song that I wrote: I didn't like the idea "USA For Africa". It was like it was discriminating the rest of the world. 'Cause I asked for the Bee Gees, I asked for other groups, too. "Well, they weren't born here..." I said: "I don't care! I just want the world to show that they care!"

We need peace, we need giving,  
we need love, we need unity.

Peace. That's what I want all around the world.  
Everywhere I go I always do the peace sign  
with my fingers.

I pray for peace all the time.



I've seen the very rich and the very poor, but I'm mainly interested in the poor. I want to appreciate what I have and try to help others. When I go to other countries, I wish to see the "poorer" parts. I want to see what it's really like to starve. I don't want to hear it or read it. I want to see it.



I get a taste of poverty, too. When I go to a country – like in the Philippines and in Trinidad and in Africa – I really get out and go to the poor sections and talk to the people. I sit in their little huts, their cardboard houses, and I make myself at home. I think it's important to know how different people feel, especially in my field of endeavor.

The head of the section will call all the poor people out and tell them who's here to see them, and it feels good to know that they know who you are. I don't think I'm better than other people, I think I'm different from other people because I do different things. I shake all their hands, and they follow me wherever I go. Then they see my camera around my neck and they'll start touching it and begging me to take their picture. When we first went to Africa, we took the kind of camera that has instant pictures, and they'd never seen anything like that. They were jumping up and down and screaming.

There are a lot of people there who don't have food and who can't afford food. Before people here throw away food, they should think.

In certain parts of the globe, I've seen hungry children walking the streets with no shoes on. I'm very concerned about the hungry children of the world and I hope I can do something positive to help alleviate this problem.

There are so many children all over the world who die from hunger. I've seen them myself in Manila and India. The poverty is really incredible. So, to bring a child into your home and take care of it, is saving a life. And life is important.

You know, sometime I feel so guilty when I have dinner or breakfast because I realize how so many people don't have those simple things that we so much take for granted. And people, they sit at the table and they pray and all that, which is beautiful, but to do something is the thing, not just – you know, you have to act, so I think it's important to help out as much as you can.

I want to live in a world with peace and without hunger. A world where mankind knows no suffering.

I'd rather suffer than cause others to suffer.

We stand together all around the world, joined in a common purpose – to remake the planet into a haven of joy and understanding and goodness. No one should have to suffer, especially our children. This time we must succeed.

We all have to give, and we all have to do what we can to help end the needless suffering in the world.

If we don't make a change soon, we all are in big trouble.

Stop existing and start living.

Mahatma Gandhi knew how important bringing the world's attention was to gaining freedom for India without using any weapons. In some ways he was the first person to truly understand the importance and power of the public. He has always been an inspiration to me.

I love people who have really contributed to the pleasure and happiness of the planet and mankind – people with light [...] who really cared about children, bringing families together and love. That's what I try to say in my music and in my songs.

I always had this yearning to give and help and make people feel better.

You give of yourself. You give of your talent, of your ability. The talent that was given to you by the Heavens. That's why we're here, to bring a sense of escapism in time of need. You give people some love and some bliss and some escapism. And to show that you truly care from the heart and be there for them. Not just from a distance, but show you really care. You know, take the long mile and be there for them. And that's what I did, and many others who cared and helped. And it's an important thing. [...] To give some feeling and some loving and some caring to those people who were thrust into orphanage or – just within a matter of seconds – they lost their parents and their loved ones, you know?



I have always believed that the real measure of celebrity success was not just how famous he becomes, but what he does with that fame and fortune, especially in today's technological and media advanced society. The attention and fortune showered on an individual celebrity is often times immensely disproportionate to his or her achievements. Today a person can literally become a celebrity overnight throughout the entire world and that kind of attention can become difficult for an individual to handle. I have also learned that such fame can also be an effective medium to focus attention and mobilize resources for a worthy cause.

I never have felt that people should feel that they are better than others simply because they just happen to possess a larger share of material items and monetary wealth than others less fortunate. I believe in sharing, assisting and just lending a helping hand to people.

Heal the world. Stop the hate. Lend a helping hand to those in need.

Life is very beautiful and precious.

Life is too precious and too short not to reach out and touch the people we can.

I believe each person can make a difference in the life of someone in need.

I guess that's about the greatest thing you can do, save someone from a bad life and help to give it some meaning. We've seen children all round the world who have a hard time, and you really want to help everybody.

I think it's important to help out as much as you can. [...] You can do that. It would be beautiful. Just to help one person would be a lot. It's a big step forward because it's a lot to be done.



If I can bring one second of joy into a child or a grown-up's life, then I have achieved my lifetime ambition.

There's so much I can do as a single person, but we have to work together for a change.

I just want to bring the world together. Togetherness is what I want for this planet.

In times like these, we need each other. We must bond together in spirit and in service.

WE must be love's favorite child. [...] WE unites us, increases our strength; it picks up our burden when you and I are ready to let it fall. The truth is that you and I would have given up long ago, but WE won't let us. It is too wise. "Look into your hearts," it says. "What do you see? Not you and I, but only WE."

Together we can make a change for the better.

We all have to make important changes, we have to learn to live and love together. Please join me in healing the world and making it a better place to live in.

We must join together in healing the world, so we can share this beautiful planet in joy and love.

Let us reach out to those who are alone. Let us all tell them: "You are not alone."

Just make the world a better, happier place. It's our home. I'd like to see us do a better job of taking care of it.

What I enjoy most about performing is making people happy. Just to make a person smile means more to me than anything.

Hopefully, that's what I do with my music: Bring happiness to people. And to bring joy and some peace in their lives.

Just let me share and give, put a smile on people's faces and make their hearts feel happy.

Nothing is more important than making people happy, giving them release from their problems and worries.



I wrote this song ["Heal The World"] for everyone in our world, in an effort to help bring global harmony.

I wrote that song to raise people's awareness of the problems that – as members of the human race – we all have to face up to.

I believe that through music we can help heal the world.

My bliss is in giving and sharing and having simple innocent fun.

The pain of life touches me, but the joy of life is so much stronger.

The soul is so precious. Nourish it with music.

People ask me how I make music. I tell them I just step into it. It's like stepping into a river and joining the flow. Every moment in the river has its song. So I stay in the moment and listen.

What I hear is never the same. A walk through the woods brings a light crackling song: Leaves rustle in the wind, birds chatter and squirrels scold, twigs crunch underfoot, and the beat of my heart holds it all together. When you join the flow, the music is inside and outside, and both are the same. As long as I can listen to the moment, I'll always have music.

Each song is a child I nourish and give my love to. But even if you have never written a song, your life is a song. How can it not be? In wave after wave, Nature caresses you – the rhythm of each dawn and each sunset is part of you, the falling rain touches your soul, and you see yourself in the clouds that are playing tag with the sun. To live is to be musical, starting with the blood dancing in your veins. Everything living has a rhythm. To feel each one, softly and attentively, brings out its music.

I hear music in everything.

Music is the soundtrack to life. It plays the melody of our being.

Do you feel your music?

Children do, but once we grow up, life becomes a burden and a chore, and the music grows fainter. Sometimes the heart is so heavy that we turn away from it and forget that its throbbing is the wisest message of life, a wordless message that says, "Live, be, move, rejoice – you are alive!" Without the heart's wise rhythm, we could not exist.

Let us celebrate the joy of life.

The meaning of life is contained in every single expression of life. It is present in the infinity of forms and phenomena that exist in all of creation.

In one of the pieces of the "Dangerous" album, I say: "Life songs of ages, throbbing in my blood, have danced the rhythm of the tide and flood." This is a very literal statement, because the same new miracle intervals and biological rhythms that sound out the architecture of my DNA also governs the movement of the stars. The same music governs the rhythm of the seasons, the pulse of our heartbeats, the migration of birds, the ebb and flow of ocean tides, the cycles of growth, evolution and dissolution. It's music, it's rhythm. And my goal in life is to give to the world what I was lucky to receive: the ecstasy of divine union through my music and my dance. It's like my purpose, it's what I'm here for.



To give in the best way I can, through song and through dance and through music. I mean, I am committed to my art. I believe that all art has as it's ultimate goal the union between the material and the spiritual, the human and the divine. I believe that to be the reason for the very existence of art. And I feel I was chosen as an instrument to just give music and love and harmony to the world. To children of all ages and adults and teenagers.

I have been blessed with so much and have the opportunity to do what few others can, but I believe it is more than just an opportunity but a duty. I feel to reap and enjoy the fruits of my talents for myself would be selfish, irresponsible and unconscionable. In these days of such abundance and advancement in what we can do, it pains me to think that we do so little for our children. In some ways I feel undeserving to receive an award for something that is my duty.

That's why I don't put awards of trophies in my house. You won't find a gold record anywhere in my house because it makes you feel you've accomplished: "Look what I've done!" But I always want to feel: "No, I haven't done it yet."

It's sad to get caught up in the past. That's why I don't put awards in my house. No gold records, no Grammys. They're in storage. I don't like to be puffed up with pride because I'd feel I don't have any more things to reach for. And that's not true.

There was an old Jewish man in New York a long time ago who said to me: "Always be thankful for your talent and always give to the poor people. Help other people. When I [the Jewish man] was a little boy my father said to me, 'We are going to take these clothes and these pieces of bread and we are going to wrap them up and you run down the street and up the stairs and knock on the people's door and place it in front of the door and run!' I said, 'Why did you tell us to run?' He said, 'Because when they open the door I don't want them to feel the shame. They have pride. That is real charity.'" I have never forgotten that.

Real charity is from the heart, you know – not to say, "Look at me, look what I'm doing!"



It's forever. It's not a publicity stunt, it's not something trying to use as a vehicle to launch a single or an album. It's something that's directly from my heart.

I feel very fortunate to have been blessed with recognition for my efforts. This recognition also brings with it a responsibility to one's admirers throughout the world. Performers should always serve as role models who set an example for young people.

I urge all young people to go for their dreams. If they do, many of the world's problems will be solved.

You can always dream, and your dreams can come true. But you have to make them come true.

Please go for your dreams. Whatever your ideals are, you can become whatever you want to become.

No matter what, no star is too far to reach, and you never give up.

If someone ever tells you that you can't, all you have to do really is remove the T at the end – because you CAN.

The power is in believing. [...] Keep the faith, don't let nobody turn you 'round. [...] Because it's just a matter of time before your confidence will win out.

I believe we are powerful, but we don't use our minds to full capacity.

Straighten out yourself and get your mind on track. [...] Lift up your mind before your mind gets blown.

I believe in wishes and in a person's ability to make a wish come true.

It's staggering what a person can do if they only try.

You could win if you try, you will lose if you don't.

There are so many smart people walking around that don't know they're smart, don't believe in themselves.

Believe in yourself, know there's a tomorrow, walk tall.

Don't be afraid to know who you are. You are much more than you ever imagined.

Trust is like that, it always seems to come down to trusting in yourself. Others can't overcome fear for you; you have to do it on your own. It's hard, because fear and doubt hold on tight. We are afraid of being rejected, of being hurt once more. So we keep a safe distance. We think separating ourselves from others will protect us, but that doesn't work either. It leaves us feeling alone and unloved.

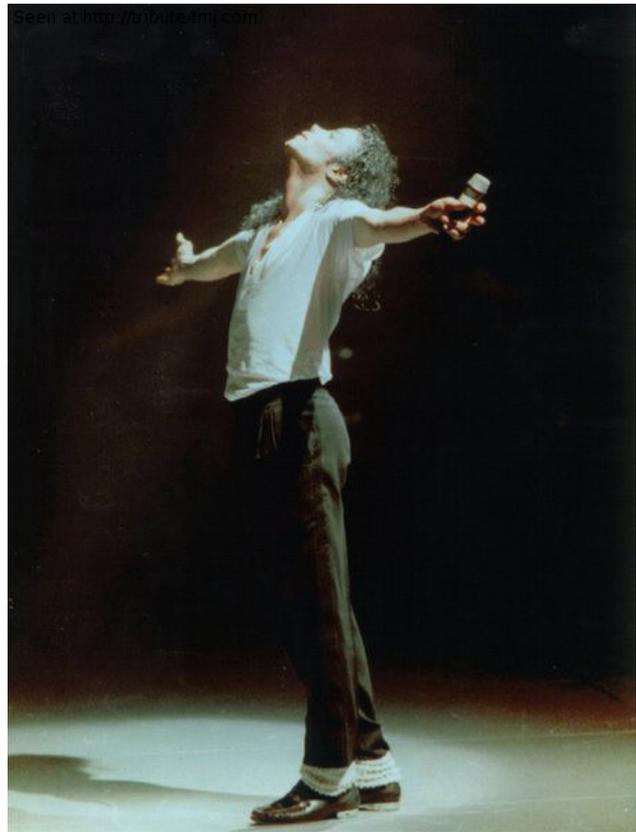
Trusting yourself begins by recognizing that it's okay to be afraid. Having fear is not the problem, because everyone feels anxious and insecure sometimes. The problem is not being honest enough to admit your fear. Whenever I accept my own doubt and insecurity, I'm more open to other people. The deeper I go into myself, the stronger I become, because I realize that my real self is much bigger than any fear.

In accepting yourself completely, trust becomes complete. There is no longer any separation between people, because there is no longer any separation inside. In the space where fear used to live, love is allowed to grow.

Where love abounds, there is no fear.

In the end, the most important thing is to be true to yourself and those you love.

It's curious what takes courage and what doesn't. When I step out on stage in front of thousands of people, I don't feel that I'm being brave. It can take much more courage to express true feelings to one person. Expressing your feelings is not the same as falling apart in front of someone else, it's being accepting and true to your heart, whatever it may say. When you have the courage to be intimate, you know who you are, and you're willing to let others see that. It's scary, because you feel so vulnerable, so open to rejection. [...] In spite of the risks, the courage to be honest and intimate opens the way to self-discovery. It offers what we all want, the promise of love.



It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

Stand for what you believe, and believe in what you stand for.

Even if you're sweeping floors or painting ceilings, do it better than anybody in the world. No matter what it is that you do – be the best at it. And have a respect for others and be proud of yourself and [...] be honorable.

You have to love what you do. If you don't love what you do, then what you do won't work.

Let's just forget about all the troubles of the world for one moment, open your mind to things that inspire you.

No matter what, the most powerful thing in the world is the human mind and prayer and belief in yourself and confidence and perseverance. [...] Always believe in yourself. No matter who's around you that's being negative or thrusting negative energy at you – totally block it off. Because whatever you believe, you become. [...] And after all of that, the most important, the most important: Stay humble! The humbleness like a new born baby has. Even though you become powerful or have power with people, with your talent like with what Michelangelo did with sculpting, you know. Underneath all that, be as humble as a child, as a baby and as kind, and giving and loving. Never become puffed up with pride.

I never take it [adulation] for granted. I'm never puffed up with pride or think I'm better than the next-door neighbor.

I don't see how a person can think they're better than somebody else just because they have a certain job. If I was king, I wouldn't think I was better than other people, because they made me king. What is the king without the people? What am I without the fans? I'd still be me, but not where I am today.

Keep to your course, but dance while you do it.

Life [is] the greatest gift of all.

Always appreciate the gift of life. Be happy and have fun.

Make your mark on life a long lasting one.

Every day create your history, every path you take you're leaving your legacy.

I don't wish to be everything to everyone, but I would like to be something to someone.

It's all for the sake a goodness, really, because my message is for goodness.



## **AGAINST RACISM, PREJUDICE AND VIOLENCE**

Sadly, we live in a state of fear. Everyday we hear of war. On the news, on the radio and television, in the newspapers, always of war. We hear of nations hurting each other, of neighbors hurting each other, of families hurting each other and of children killing each other. We must learn to live and love each other before it's too late. We have to stop! We have to stop the prejudice, we have to stop the hating, we have to stop living in fear of our own neighbors. [...] Together we can make a change in the world. Together we can help to stop racism. Together we can help to stop prejudice. We can help the world live without fear. It is our only hope, and without hope we are lost.

Maybe I look at the world through rose colored glasses but I love people all over the world. That is why stories of racism really disturb me. [...] Because in truth I believe ALL men are created equal, I was taught that and will always believe it. I just can't conceive of how a person could hate another because of skin color. I love every race on the planet earth. Prejudice is the child of ignorance. Naked we come into the world and naked we shall go out. And a very good thing too, for it reminds me that I am naked under my shirt, whatever its color. [...] Teach your kids to love all people equally. [...] I speak from my heart saying I love you and all people especially the children.

When I found out the count of how many children in the Holocaust alone died... [*starts to break down*] What man can do something like that? I don't understand. It doesn't matter what race it is. I don't get it. I don't understand that at all. I really don't. What kind of conditioning... I don't understand that kind of thing. Does someone condition you to hate that much? Is it possible that they could do that to your heart? They can't do that to mine.

There two things [...] which are the most important things in my life: freedom and equality.

The main thing that I hate most is ignorance, like the prejudice problems of America. I know it is worse in some other countries. But I wish I could borrow, like from Venezuela or Trinidad, the real love of color-blind people and bring it to America.[...] I'm prejudiced against ignorance. That's what I'm mainly prejudiced against. It's only ignorance and it's taught because it's not genetic at all. The little children in those [countries like Venezuela or Trinidad] aren't prejudiced.

I'm really not a prejudiced person at all. I believe that people should think about God more and creation. Look at the many wonders inside the human body – the different colors of organs, colors of blood, and all these different colors do a different thing in the human body.



It's the most incredible system in the world. It makes an incredible building, the human being. And if this can happen with the human body, why can't we do it as people? And that's how I feel, and that's why I wish the world could do more. That [racism] is the only thing I hate. I really do. And that's why I try to write, put it in songs, put it in dance, put it in my art – to teach the world. If politicians can't do it, poets should put it in poetry and writers should put it in novels. That's what we have to do. And I think it's so important to save the world.

Prejudice is taught. If the world were full of only children, it would be a much better place.

Through the ages, the peacock has been honored and praised for its attractive, illustrious beauty. In all the bird family, the peacock is the only species that integrates all colors into one, and displays this radiance of fire only when in love. We, like the peacock, try to integrate all races into one, through the love and power of music.

That is what we are trying to represent through our music. To bring all races together through love. Politics can't save the world, so the music people should at least try. People are brought together through music. With our music, we try to get across the feeling of love and so we relate it through the peacock.

I don't understand racism. We are all the same and I have the perfect hypothesis to prove it. I play to all those countries and they cry in all the same places in my show. They laugh in the same places. They become hysterical in the same places. They faint in the same places and that's the perfect hypothesis. There is a commonality that we are all the same.

It doesn't matter which blood or race or creed or color. Love is love, and it breaks all boundaries, and you just see it right away.

If you go to one of my concerts, my shows, you will see 200,000 people swaying, holding candles, saying, "We want to heal the world" and "We love you". I've seen it around the world from Russia, to Germany, to Poland, to Africa, to America. We're all the same. People cry in the same places in the show. They get angry in the same places in the show, they get the pathos in the same places.

Deep down inside we're all the same. We all have the same emotions.

I wanna touch the world, I wanna touch the hearts, the emotions of the entire world. Every demographic, from a child to older people, from the farmer in Ireland to the lady who scrubs toilets in Harlem. I mean, I want to reach every demographic I can through the love and joy and the simplicity of music.

It [music] has no color, it has no boundaries.

Music is colorless. It's for everybody, it's for the world. It's for everybody to enjoy.

We are Germans, we are Armenians,  
French, Italians, Russians,  
Americans, Asians, Africans  
and many other nationalities.  
We are Christians, Jewish,  
Muslims, Hindus.  
We are black, we are white.  
We are a community of  
so many differences.  
So complex and yet so simple!  
We do not need to have war.



It [racism] is cruelty, it's ugly, and I hate it. You are my brother. [...] If you are black, white, Arab... We are all the same. I love all races equally. I love all people of the world.

In my heart, I feel you are all my brothers.

We are all part of God's great big family.

We are all brothers and sisters – no matter what color we are.

The color of a person's skin has nothing to do with the content of their character.

May we continue to remember not to judge man by the color of his skin,  
but the content of his character.

Always be respectful.

I never have felt that people should feel that they are better than others.

The lyrics of "Beat It" express something I would do if I were in trouble. Its message – that we should abhor violence – is something I believe deeply. It tells kids to be smart and avoid trouble. I don't mean to say you should turn the other cheek while someone kicks in your teeth, but – unless your back is against the wall and you have absolutely no choice – just get away before violence breaks out. If you fight and get killed, you've gained nothing and lost everything. You're the loser, and so are the people who love you. That's what "Beat It" is supposed to get across.

I thought about what I'd do in that situation [like in the short film of "Beat It"] – a confrontation with a gang... I wouldn't do what those people would do. The way I was raised – I would turn the other cheek without creating a war or being a coward either.

To me, true bravery is settling differences without a fight and having the wisdom to make that solution possible.

The idea that these lyrics [of the song "They Don't Care About Us"] could be deemed objectionable is extremely hurtful to me, and misleading. The song, in fact, is about the pain of prejudice and hate and is a way to draw attention to social and political problems. I am the voice of the accused and the attacked. I am the voice of everyone. I am the skinhead, I am the Jew, I am the black man, I am the white man. I am not the one who was attacking. It is about the injustices to young people and how the system can wrongfully accuse them. I am angry and outraged that I could be so misinterpreted. [...] I just want you all to know how strongly I am committed to tolerance, peace and love.

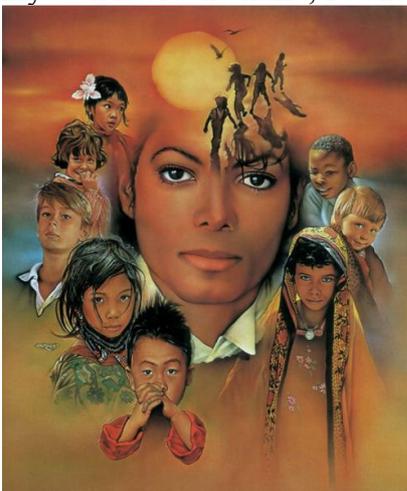
My music serves as my way of making mankind aware of the inequities that exist against all people of all the world.

Nation to nation, the world must come together, face the problems that we see – then maybe somehow we can work it out.

I hope once again we can set out on a mission to lead the world on a path of harmony by asking ourselves everyday: What more can I give?

How many people will have to die before we will take a stand? How many children will have to cry before we do all we can? [...] How many times can we turn our heads and pretend we cannot see? [...] Brother to brother lay down our fears and reach out and make a pact! Show him the love that is in our hearts, let us bring salvation back! [...] Why do they keep teaching us such hate and cruelty? We should give [love and help] over and over gain.

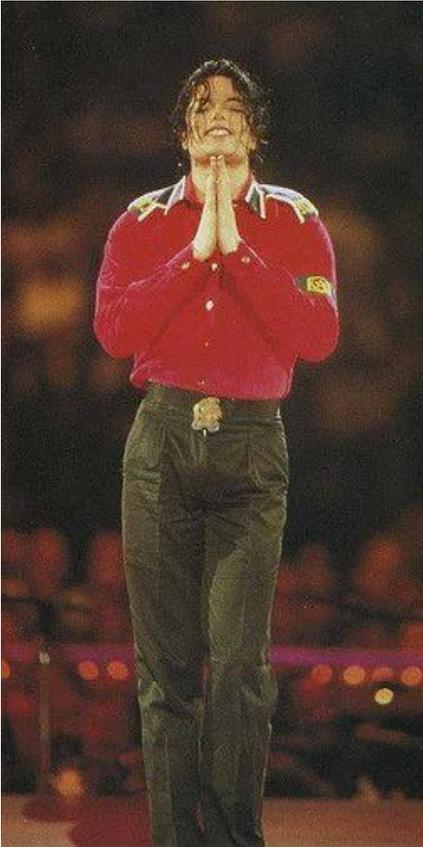
In my own heart and mind, I stand united for peace, love and tolerance in the world.



All the colors of the world should be  
Loving each other wholeheartedly  
Yes, it's all right  
Take my message to your brother and tell him twice  
Spread the word and try to teach the man  
Who is hating his brother, when hate won't do  
Cause were all the same  
Yes, the blood inside of me is inside of you

("CAN YOU FEEL IT?")

## G O D



Kids are murdering other kids for the fun of it  
Instead of using their mind or their fist, they put a gun in it  
Wanna be a part of a clique, don't know who's running it  
Tragedy on top of tragedy, you know, it's killing me

So many people in agony, this shouldn't have to be  
Too busy focusing on ourselves and not His Majesty  
There has to be some type of change for this day and age  
We gotta rearrange and flip the page

[...]

The only solution for peace  
Is increasing the height of your spirituality

Masses of minds are shrouded, clouded visions  
Deceptions and indecision, no faith or religion, how we're living  
The clock is ticking, the end is coming, there'll be no warning  
But we live to see the dawn

How can we preach, when all we make this world to be  
Is a living hell torturing our minds?  
We all must unite, to turn darkness to light  
And the love in our hearts will shine  
("SHOUT")

Wherever you go, man-made things are man-made, but you've got to get out and see God's beauty of the world.

We are looking for Him in the wrong places. [...] We look high and low for God, but somehow He's not there. So we blame Him and tell ourselves that He must have forgotten us. Or else we decide that He left a long time ago, if He was ever around. How strange [...] to miss what is everywhere. [...] Doesn't it remind you of fish who say they're thirsty?

I know there's a true and breathing God. A lot of people don't believe in that, but I know there's no way it can't be. There's no way it couldn't be; it's so true that there is a God, when you break it down: the universe, the beauty of the world, the sun.

I've looked up at the night sky and beheld the stars so intimately close, it was as if my grandmother had made them for me. "How rich, how sumptuous," I thought. In that moment I saw God in His creation.

My mother knew her polio was not a curse but a test that God gave her to triumph over, and she instilled in me a love of Him that I will always have. She taught me that my talent for singing and dancing was as much God's work as a beautiful sunset or a storm that left snow for children to play in.

When circumstances made it increasingly complex for me to attend [church], I was comforted by the belief that God exists in my heart, and in music and in beauty, not only in a building.

Although I once believed God is in a church, I now believe that God is everywhere, He's in my heart. I now find God in those moments I spend with my children, I find God in the innocent.

I avoid using the term "religion", because many people say "my religion" this and "my religion" that. Why should it be "my" religion? I just believe what's in the Bible with regard to which religion is involved. I simply believe. I believe in it and I get down on my knees every night and thank God and ask Him to lead the way.

Because they [religious advisers] can discriminate sometimes in wrong ways. I don't think God meant it in that way. Like Halloween, I missed Halloween for years and now I do it. It's sweet to go from door-to-door and people give you candy. We need more of that in the world. It brings the world together.

For me the form God takes is not the most important thing. What's most important is the essence.

Caring. And reading the Bible, learning about God, Jesus, love. Jesus said: "Bring on the children", "Imitate children", you know, "Be like little children" and to "Take care of others, take care of old people." And we were raised with those values. Those are very important values. And my family and I, we were raised with those values, and they continue strong in us today.

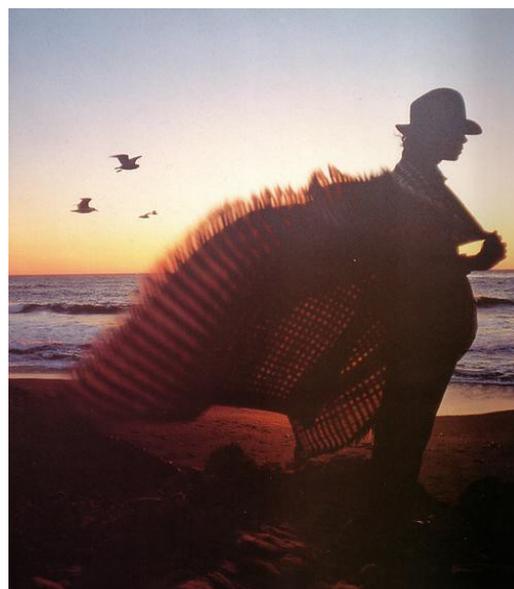
It's important to love your neighbors. I truly think it comes from my mother and God. The way we were raised. [...] She was always with the Bible teaching us. We'd go to service all the time – four times a week, and I'm so glad we did that because those values are very important. I don't know if I could have done as well without them.

God has always been in my heart and a part of my life and my family's lives. It is through Him that we draw our strength. As a child, my mother taught me the value of prayer, and today it is still a part of my daily life.

I pray every night. I don't just pray at night. I pray at different times during the day. When I see something beautiful, whenever I see beautiful scenery – like when I'm flying or something – I say: "Oh, God, that's beautiful." And I always say little prayers like that all through the day. I love beauty.

I pray a lot. I see a beautiful sunset and I say, "God, that's beautiful, thank you." Or a baby smile or butterfly wings or anything like that.

A beautiful sunset is awe-inspiring to me. I pray when I see something totally magnificent. I was praying the other day. These clouds came over the mountains and the sun was setting and it put a beautiful line in the sky with orange underneath. How could you not see that and go, "Wow!" I say to myself, "God, the world is so beautiful". Clouds are important, you know, they give us moisture, oxygen. They didn't have to be beautiful when you look up. They didn't have to be inspiring. It's that extra little touch.



There's a reason why God made the sunset red or purple or green. It's beautiful to look at – it's a minute of joy. There's a reason we see rainbows after rain or a forest where the deer come out. That's wonder, that's escapism – it touches your heart.

My favorite part of the day is dusk. It just gives you an unexplainable feeling. I thank God for that feeling.

There is so much around us that we should be thankful for.

I try to be kind and generous and to give people and to do what I think God wants me to do. Sometimes I pray and say: "Where do you want me to go next, God? What do you want me to do from here?" I've always been very spiritual in that way.

My real goal is to fulfill God's purpose.

I just do what I do and I love doing it. I pray that I'm doing my job, what I'm here to do on earth.

For me, the gift of music has been a gift from God from the time I was a child.

I didn't ask to be a singer, I'm honored to be chosen. I didn't ask to write songs and I'm happy to be chosen to do it. To me, it's like when the painter takes the paint, you know, and the brush and he goes towards the canvas and he creates magic. And that's a gift, and I'm thankful to be able to do what I do and have people to love it.

Getting to share your gift from God with the world and hope and pray they accept it and love it.

I am so proud God gave me the gift of song and the world gave me the opportunity to be heard through music.

The best way I can imagine to show my thanks is to make the very most of the gift that God gave me.

What can I do but bring forth the talent that God gave me? That's all I wanted to do. To share the love and gift of entertainment. That's all I want to do. I don't want to hurt anybody.

I'm just a person who wants to be honest and do good and make people happy and give them the greatest sense of escapism through the talent that God is giving me. That's where my heart is, it's all I want to do. That's all. I just wanna say, "Look, leave me alone and let me do what I wanna do which is share and give and put a smile on people's face and make their heart feel happy."

That's what God gave us talent for – to give, to help people and to give back.

I feel so pure when I can do this. I feel God applauding, I really do. I feel that I've done what I'm supposed to do on the earth. I'm compelled to do these things.



I cope with it in a way – and I'm not calling myself Jesus because I would never even look at myself on the same level – but I'm comparing it to Jesus because what God gave to him was for a reason. And he preached, and people came about him, and he didn't get angry and push them aside and say, "Leave me alone, I ain't got time."

I really believe that God chooses people to do certain things, the way Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci or Mozart or Muhammad Ali or Martin Luther King is chosen. And that is their mission to do that thing. And I think that I haven't scratched the surface yet of what my real purpose is for being here.

I feel fortunate for being that instrument through which music flows. I'm just the source through which it comes. I can't take credit for it because it's God's work. He's just using me as the messenger.

The songwriting process is something very difficult to explain because it's very spiritual. [...] It's an incredible process.

If I sat here and played some chords whatever and say, "I'm gonna write the best song ever written", nothing happens. Something in the Heavens has to say, "Look, this is the time, that this is gonna be laid on you, and this is when I want you to have it."

Let the music create itself.

Let the song write itself, let it tell you what to write, what instrument to use, what melody, slowly let feeling be your guide, be used, feel, feel as though, as though a prophet writing through the thoughts of God. His penmanship. God's thoughts.

You really have it in the hands of God, and it's as if it's been written already – that's the real truth. As if it's been written in its entirety before you were born and you're just really the source through which the songs come.

It has to be given to you. I believe it's already up there before you are born, and then it drops right into your lap. It's the most spiritual thing in the world. When it comes, it comes with all the accompaniments, the strings, the bass, the drums, the lyrics, and you're just the medium through which it comes, the channel.

When a song comes to me, I'm hearing the strings, I'm hearing the bass, I'm hearing the drums – everything comes as a package just like catching a leaf that falls from a tree. [...] I try not to invent, but to discover what's there. I'm discovering where the song wants to go.

I wake up from dreams and go, "Wow, put this down on paper." The whole thing is strange. You hear the words, everything is right there in front of your face. And you say to yourself, "I'm sorry, I just didn't write this." It's there already.

Sometimes I feel guilty putting my name on songs – written by Michael Jackson – because it's as if the Heavens have done it already. Like Michelangelo would have this huge piece of marble from the quarries of Italy, and he'd say, "Inside is a sleeping form." He takes a hammer and chisel, and he's just freeing it. It's already in there. It's already there.

That's why it's hard to take credit for the songs that I write, because I just always feel that it's done from above.

I do write them. I compose them, I write them, I do the scoring, I do the lyrics, I do the melodies, but still – it's a work of God.

I have nothing to do with it of course. It's created in space. It's God's work, not mine.

My songs and dances are outlines for Him to come in and fill.

The key to being a wonderful writer is not to write. You just get out of the way. Leave room for God to walk in the room.

And when I write something that I know is right, I get on my knees and say: "Thank you. Thank you, Jehovah!"

First I like to thank God who makes all things possible.

I pray to God out of thankfulness that it happened, that it came to me.

I just remember my mother, who is very religious, always telling us to always thank God, to thank Jehovah God for your talent, your ability. You know it's not our doing, and it's from above.

Each day I take time out to study the Bible, no matter where I am. The teachings of the Bible have added a new dimension to my life. It somehow makes me whole.

I think if I sat in a room with him [Jesus], I would follow him everywhere he went, feel his presence. I would behave just like a child.

I love the Sermon on the Mount. I love the story when the Apostles are arguing amongst themselves about who is the greatest, and Jesus says, "Unless you humble yourself like this little child, be childlike..." I thought that was the perfect thing to say: Return to innocence!

If I am guilty of anything, it is of believing what God said about children: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not – for this is the kingdom of heaven." In no way do I think that I am God, but I do try to be God-like in my heart.

Not only am I presumed to be innocent, I AM innocent, and I know that the truth will be my salvation. I have been strengthened to prove my innocence by my faith in God and the knowledge that I am not fighting this battle alone.

I gain strength from God. I believe in Jehovah, God, very much. And I gain strength from the fact that I know that I am innocent. None of these stories are true – they are totally fabricated. It's very sad and it's very, very painful. And I pray a lot and that's how I deal with it.

Know, in the end, I'll be vindicated. I pray because I know the truth. I am an innocent person and I believe in God and love God.



Look, we don't have control over the grounds, they can shake. We don't have control over the seas, they can have tsunamis. We don't have control over the skies, there are storms. We're all in God's hands. I think that man has to take that into consideration.

I think a lot of what is going on is Biblically prophesied.

Some people believe in the Big Bang, which I don't, and some people believe in the Creation, that story with Adam and Eve, that this universe isn't an accident. To say this universe was created

by a Big Bang or an accident is to say, "Okay, I want you to take a car engine, and we are going to take each piece apart and we are going to put it in a bath tub, and I want you to shake it up." You can shake that tub 100 years and it will never become the perfect engine. All the pieces to come together and make an engine, that is like saying the Big Bang theory, and there was a big explosion, and we got children and trees and plants and the air we breath, and oxygen. Somebody had to create this, a designer had to create this. From our lashes to our mouths to our digestive system. Don't you agree?

A lot of people don't believe there is [God]. Science is so silly sometimes. The sun has been up there for ages and ages – what holds it up? I don't care how many scientific explanations they give me – it ain't deep enough for me. And, by traveling the world, I know there must be a God.

I believe in spirituality and I believe in a higher source, that is God.

I believe in God absolutely, absolutely, very much.

There is more to life than the things you can hold in your hands or see with your eyes.

I think imagination is important for the inner self and the soul. It's important for the brain. It's God telling us we are bigger than anything. We are the universe.

Deep inside I feel that this world we live in is really a big, huge, monumental symphonic orchestra. I believe that in its primordial form all of creation is sound and that it's not just random sound, that it's music. You've heard the expression, music of the spheres? Well, that's a very literal phrase. In the Gospels, we read, "And the Lord God made man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul." That "breath of life" to me is the music of life and it permeates every fiber of creation.

Consciousness expresses itself through creation. This world we live in is the dance of the creator. Dancers come and go in the twinkling of an eye but the dance lives on. On many an occasion when I am dancing, I have felt touched by something sacred. In those moments, I felt my spirit soar and become one with everything that exists.



Come, let us dance the dance of creation.  
Let us celebrate the joy of life.

In every person there is a secret song in their heart. It says, "I am free." It sings, "I am one." This is the natural feeling of every child – to be free as the wind, to be one with every other child. All the troubles in the world are caused by forgetting this feeling. When I perform, my connection is with people and it's just to remind me of that – to be free and to be one.

To be part of a music that will not just connect but make all feel one – one in joy, one in pain, one in love, one in service and in consciousness.

You can pray to the angels  
and they will listen,  
but the best way to call them,  
I am told, is to laugh.  
Angels respond to delight,  
because that is what they're made of.  
In fact, when people's minds are  
clouded by anger or hatred,  
no angel can reach them.



When all life is seen as divine, everyone grows wings.

## NATURE

My idea of magic doesn't have much to do with stage tricks and illusions. The whole world abounds in magic. When a whale plunges out of the sea like a newborn mountain, you gasp in unexpected delight. What magic! But a toddler who sees his first tadpole flashing in a mud puddle feels the same thrill. Wonder fills his heart, because he has glimpsed for an instant the playfulness of life. When I see the clouds whisked away from a snow-capped peak, I feel like shouting, "Bravo!" Nature, the best of all magicians, has delivered another thrill. She has exposed the real illusion, our inability to be amazed by her wonders. Every time the sun rises, Nature is repeating one command: "Behold!" Her magic is infinitely lavish, and in return all we have to do is appreciate it. What delight Nature must feel when she makes stars out of swirling gas and empty space. She flings them like spangles from a velvet cape, a billion reasons for us to awaken in pure joy. When we open our hearts and appreciate all she has given us, Nature finds her reward. The sound of applause rolls across the universe, and she bows.

When I create my music, I feel like an instrument of nature. I wonder what delight Nature must feel when we open our hearts and express our God-given talents. The sound of approval rolls across the universe, and the whole world abounds in magic. Wonder fills our hearts, for what we have glimpsed, for an instant – the playfulness of life.

I try to be loving and try to find love and see love in all things. I love nature, I love the forest. I love the grace, the gentleness, the easiness of how gentle nature is. It is just giving. I love that.

The stars, the mountains, children, babies smiling are just magic.

What makes me happiest is when I see a bunch of kids having fun in a beautiful environment where there is water, trees. I like lakes for the still water [...], and they are all playing, and there is grass and rolling hills and trees. There is nothing more magical than that.



I enjoy nature too much. I know the tree feels it when the wind blows through it. It probably goes, "Ohhhh, this is wonderful." And that's how I feel when I'm singing some songs. It's wonderful.

People used to laugh at ladies – older ladies who talk to their plants, they used to make fun of them like they were wacky. Plants and grass and trees respond to music. They have emotion. They feel, they have feelings. When they hear music – it was test findings – they grow more beautiful, the butterflies come around, the birds come around, the ducks come around, and the trees grow more beautiful because of music. That's the real truth.

Music started with nature. Music is nature. Birds make music. Oceans make music. Wind makes music. Any natural sound is music. And that's where it started...  
You see, we're just making a replica of nature, which is the sounds we hear outside.

I like to hear the sound of water and birds chirping and laughter. I love all the real natural, innocent things.

I respect the secrets and magic of nature. That's why it makes me so angry when I see these things that are happening – that every second, I hear, the size of a football field is torn down in the Amazon. I mean, that kind of stuff really bothers me. That's why I write these kinds of songs, you know. It gives some sense of awareness and awakening and hope to people. I love the planet, I love trees. I have this thing for trees and the colors and changing of leaves. I love it. I respect those kind of things.

I have shed many tears at the thought of how some people treat our earth.



I remember writing "Earth Song" when I was in Austria, in a hotel. And I was feeling so much pain and so much suffering of the plight of the Planet Earth. And for me, this is earth's song because I think nature is trying so hard to compensate for man's mismanagement of the earth. And with the ecological unbalance going on and a lot of the problems in the environment, I think earth feels the pain, and she has wounds. And it's about some of the joys of the planet as well. But this is my chance to pretty much let people hear the voice of the planet. And this is "Earth Song".

The earth we all share is not just a rock tossed through space but a living, nurturing being. She cares for us; she deserves our care in return. We've been treating Mother Earth the way some people treat a rental apartment. Just trash it and move on. But there's no place to move on to now. We have brought our garbage and our wars and our racism to every part of the world. We must begin to clean her up, and that means cleaning up our own hearts and minds first, because they led us to poison our dear planet. The sooner we change, the easier it will be to feel our love for Mother Earth and the love she so freely gives back to us.

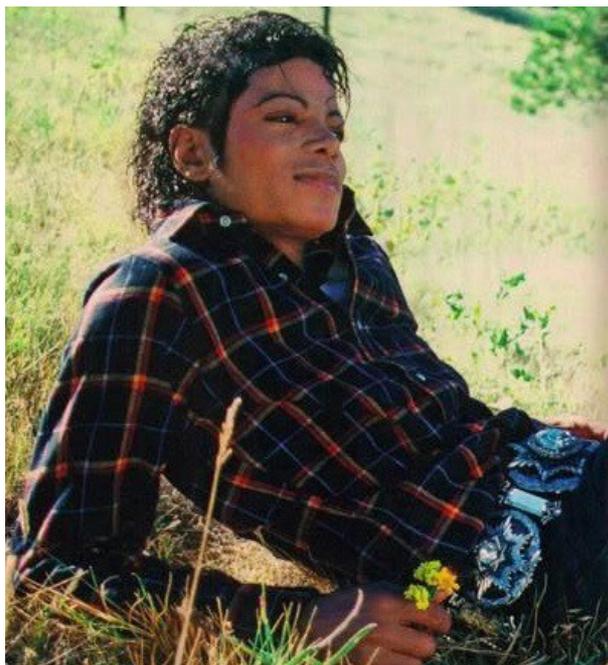
Out of negligence, we have contaminated and polluted our planet and, in exchange, we hurt ourselves. The environment is an extension of our body and it gives the pulse of love. It is the orchestra of universe's symphony.

I don't feel that way those problems aren't "out there", not really. I feel them inside me. A child crying in Ethiopia, a sea gull struggling pathetically in an oil spill, a mountain gorilla being mercilessly hunted, a teenage soldier trembling with terror when he hears the planes fly over: Aren't these happening in me when I see and hear about them?

Mother Earth wants us to be happy and to love her as we tend her needs. She needs fearless people on her side, whose courage comes from being part of her, like a baby who is brave enough to walk because Mother is holding out her arms to catch him. [...] When we were afraid and panicky, we stopped loving this life of ours and this earth. We disconnected. Yet how can anybody rush to help the earth if they feel disconnected? Perhaps the earth is telling us what she wants, and by not listening, we fall back on our own fear and panic.

I never feel alone when I am earth's child. I do not have to cling to my personal survival as long as I realize, day by day, that all of life is in me. The children and their pain; the children and their joy. The ocean swelling under the sun; the ocean weeping with black oil. The animals hunted in fear; the animals bursting with the sheer joy of being alive. This sense of "the world in me" is how I always want to feel.

The pain of life touches me, but the joy of life is so much stronger. And it alone will heal.



Life is the healer of life,  
and the most I can do  
for the earth  
is to be its loving child.

I am life, and life can never be killed. It is the power that brought me forth from the emptiness of space; it cared for me and nourished my existence against all dangers. I am safe because I am that power. And so are you. Be with me, and let us feel the power of life together, as one creature here on earth.

I realized that nothing would finally save my life on earth but trust in life itself, in its power to heal, in its ability to survive our mistakes and welcome us back when we learn to correct those mistakes.

If we don't fix it now, it's at the point of no return. This is our last chance to fix this problem that we have or it's like a runaway train. And the times has come, this is it. People are always saying: "Oh, they'll take care of it. The government – don't worry, they'll..." "They" – who? It starts with us. It's us. Or else it'll never be done.

Think about our planet. Seriously. I mean, how to make it a better planet. [...] Just make the world a better, happier place. It's our home. I'd like to see us do a better job of taking care of it. [...] I have always felt compassion for the planet. Sometime, I just start to get emotional. I cry, because I can almost feel the pain in the air. So I put it in words and in song and in dance. I think that is what artistry is. You build up on those things through your artistry.

I'm very concerned about the plight of the international global warming phenomenon. I knew it was coming, but I wish they would have gotten people's interest sooner. But it's never too late. It's been described as a runaway train; if we don't stop it, we'll never get it back. So we have to fix it now. That's what I was trying to do with "Earth Song", "Heal The World", "We Are The World", writing those songs to open up people's consciousness. I wish people would listen to every word.

I've done it all my career: "Heal The World", "We Are The World", "Will You Be There", "Man In The Mirror", about the planet, earth songs because that's where my heart is. I care.

God created animals. And they're loving; they're beautiful. I feel the way [anthropologist] Jane Goodall does or any of those naturalists. I don't find my interest in animals weird or strange at all.

It's calling God silly if you [believe having animals is silly] because God made all things great and small.

I find in animals the same thing I find so wonderful in children: That purity, that honesty, where they don't judge you, they just want to be your friend. I think that is so sweet.



I love animals because all they really want from you is love. Too bad that's even too much to ask for from some people.

We are drawn by water. There is something about our souls that needs water. We flock to beaches, even if we don't swim. We park our car there just to look out on the calming of the ocean. It's like therapy, it's like meditation. It's like soul food for us. We need it. That's what I think nature is. We need it. Some of the great creative people throughout history, when they were stuck or frustrated or worked too hard, and they would go to the forest or take these long outdoor adventures and then come back refreshed. We need that. That's what vacation is all about.

Planet Earth, gentle and blue, with all my heart, I love you.



Why do we keep strangling life  
Wound this earth, crucify its soul  
Though it's plain to see  
This world is heavenly  
Be God's glow  
("HEAL THE WORLD")

## RUMORS AND THE TRUTH

**Michael Jackson:** Lies run sprints, but the truth runs marathons.

**Elizabeth Taylor:** He [Michael Jackson] is honesty personified painfully honest and vulnerable to the point of pain. He is so giving of himself that, at times, he leaves very little to protect that beautiful inner core that is the essence of him. That is the thing that I love so much about him and that makes the world identify with him in the way it does.



**Michael Jackson:** What one wishes is to be touched by truth and to be able to interpret that truth so that one may use what one is feeling and experiencing, be it despair or joy, in a way that will add meaning to one's life and will hopefully touch others as well. This is art in its highest form. Those moments of enlightenment are what I continue to live for.

It is my dream and goal to capture truth. We should dedicate ourselves to this.

I'm just a person who wants to be honest and do good, make people happy through the talent that God has given me.



Imagine what it must be like to be criticised for something about yourself that is natural and God-given. Imagine the hurt of having untruths spread by the press, of having people wonder if you're telling the truth – defending yourself because someone decided it would make good copy and would force you to deny what they said, thus creating another story. I've tried not to answer such ridiculous charges in the past because that dignifies them and the people who make them. Remember, the press is a business: Newspapers and magazines are in business to make money – sometimes at the expense of accuracy, fairness, and even the truth.

Trying to throw him [my son Blanket] off the balcony? We were waving to thousands of fans down below, and they were chanting they wanna see my child, so I was kind enough to let them see. I was doing something out of innocence. [...] The media is wrong. I love my children, I was holding my son tight and strong, why would I throw a baby off the balcony? That's the dumbest, stupidest story I've ever heard. I love my children. And they know I love them.

Listen, it happened for like two seconds, but when it gets on the news, they slow it down, they don't show the crowd. They make it seem like I'm an eccentric idiot dangling his baby over a balcony like a nut.

I'm not a nut. I'm very smart. You can't come this far in success and be stupid.

They lie, they don't wanna give me credit for anything. One paper said I had each – that's growing a little beard – "He had each little hair transplanted into his face with a laser, lasered-in..." How ignorant is that? I can't even grow a beard now? [...] So, don't believe that stupidity! Don't waste your money on it. Because when you're buying it, you're not buying something based on what's true. It's not the truth, it's garbage.

I say things, and they turn it all around. Once I made a quote – "I care about starvation and I love children and I want to do something about the future." And I said, "One day I'd love to go to India and see the starving children and really see what it feels like." And they wrote that "Michael Jackson gets a kick out of seeing children starve, so you can see what kind of person he is!"

It's like the bigger the star, the bigger the target. You know when you're – and I'm not being a braggadocio or anything like that – but you know you're on top when they start throwing arrows at you. Even Jesus was crucified. People who bring light to the world, from Mahatma Gandhi to Martin Luther King to Jesus Christ, even myself. And my motto has been "Heal the World", "We are the World", "Earth Song", "Save our Children", "Help our Planet".

I'm not trying to say I'm the super-duper star, I'm not saying that. I'm saying the fact that people come at celebrities, we're targets. But truth always prevails. I believe in that. I believe in God, you know?

With the pain and the arrows that people have shot at me, nobody else would have been able to take it. They would have probably committed suicide by now, they would have become a drunk... Because they have been very cruel and rude to me. And if they don't think I hear it and see it, I do. I do.

Sometimes, when you're treated unfairly, it makes you stronger and more determined.



I turn it into positive energy. And I write about it. It's in my movement; it's in the expression of my face. And it becomes part of me, part of my creation. And I try not to let it get to me. Because if you do, you'll go crazy.

I'm willing to forgive the press or forgive anybody. I was taught to love and forgive, which I do have in my heart.

I was taught to be Biblical "Forgive them for they know not what they do." [...] It has no foundation what they are doing. How can they say it? They don't even know me.

I'm proud of my heritage. I'm proud of it. I'm proud to be black. I'm honored to be black, and I just hope one day they will be fair in portraying me the way I really, really am – just a loving, peaceful guy wanting to make wonderful, unprecedented entertainment and songs and music and film for the world. That's all I want to do. I'm no threat. I just want to do that. That's what I want to do. To give joy to the world.



Don't judge a person by what you hear or read.

Do not judge a person, do not pass judgement, unless you have talked to them one on one.

Like the old Indian proverb says, "Do not judge a man until you've walked 2 moons in his moccasins." Most people don't know me, that is why they write such things in which MOST is not true. I cry very very often because it hurts and I worry about the children, all my children all over the world, I live for them.

I'd slit my wrists rather than hurt a child. I could never ever do that.

It's people with the dirty mind that think like that. I don't think that way. That's not me.

No-one will ever know how much these wicked rumors have hurt me.

Words may not hurt you physically, but they can destroy you emotionally.

I will say that I am particularly upset at the handling of this matter by the incredible, terrible mass media. At every opportunity, the media has dissected and manipulated these allegations to reach their own conclusions. I ask all of you to wait to hear the truth before you label or condemn me. Don't treat me like a criminal, 'cause I am innocent.

I told the truth and told them everything about me, and they twisted it around. I don't know what to do anymore. I tell the truth, and it doesn't work.

What happened to truth? Did it go out of style?

The distortion of the truth bothers me.

Just because it's in print doesn't mean it's the gospel. People write negatives things because they feel that's what sells. Good news to them, doesn't sell.

The love of money is the root of all evil.

I really do wish people could understand me some day.

Because they have really betrayed and deceived me in so many different ways and at so many different times. I have had adults with tears coming down their face, saying, "It's a shame what you have been through, and I would never ever ever ever hurt you or do anything." And they turn around and they hurt me. Honestly, that's the kind of crap I have been through – tears rolling down and hugging me. And they end up a year later suing me over something ridiculous – like a photographer over some pictures, or some person who gets terminated and I didn't terminate them, but I get sued by them and I didn't do it. This is the sort of silliness.

In my business you can't trust anyone because you don't know who's your friend. Becoming successful means you become a prisoner.

No matter how good your intentions are, there's always some jerk, some mean-spirited person who tries to bring you down. And all you wanted to do was to bring some love and some joy. And they're so quick to hate and to judge and be cruel and mean. I just shows that mankind can be very ugly and cruel, it really does. It brings out the ugly side.

Sometimes I think, "Leave me alone! What have I done to you for you to attack me in such a way?" It really hurts my heart.

And I just want to say, "Look, leave me alone and let me do what I want to do and just share and give and put the smile on people's face and make their heart feel happy."



I'm saying, "heal the planet, heal the world, save our children, save the forest." There's nothing wrong with that, right?

The press has made me out to be this monster, this crazy person who's bizarre and weird. I'm nothing like that. [...] All I can do is be myself and create from my soul. But they take that and manipulate it.

It is like looking at a fictitious movie. Because it's fiction. It's like watching science fiction. It's not true. And I know myself, and it's sad when people have to read those things and they believe it. [...] I know eventually the truth will prevail. And I'm about truth.

I feel sorry for [people who judge me], because that's judging someone who wants to really help people.

I get angry, yeah. But I know that is the way of the world. That's the theme of my world show: "Be kind, heal the world. Let's walk out of here a different human being. Let's love." It's like going to church, but I do it without preaching. I do it through music and dancing.

I want to heal the world, help our children, and they [inter alia the mass media] hate me for it. They want to destroy everyone righteous.

To give you an example: The last time I was here [in London], I flew Mickey and Minnie Mouse from Euro Disney to a hospital in London for the sick kids and took them a load of toys and things to cheer them up. The next day's papers said: "Wacko Jacko Snubs Sick Children". That really hurt me. I tried to help those children, but people just wanted to make fun of me. It was cruel and unnecessary.

I go to hospitals and orphanages. And we take huge bags of toys. I spend thousands of dollars. What's so wacko about that?

Just the pain of what I'm going through, where I'm being accused of something, where I know in my heart and in my experiences in life I'm totally innocent. And it's very painful. But this has been kind of a pattern among black luminaries in this country.

I gain strength from God. [...] And I gain strength from the fact that I know I'm innocent. None of these stories are true – they are totally fabricated. It's very sad and it's very, very painful. And I pray a lot and that's how I deal with it. And I'm a strong person, I'm a warrior. And I know what's inside of me. I'm a fighter. But it's very painful. At the end of the day, I'm human, you know, I'm still a human being. So it does hurt very, very, very much.

I think justice is important because there are many injustices in the world. And I hate injustice.

This film [the prison version of "They Don't Care About Us" which was banned from TV] depicts the need for hope to rise against man's injustices to man, and the need for prayer to unite man against the hatred we have seen throughout time and throughout the world.



They say I'm different  
They don't understand  
But there's a bigger problem  
That's much more in demand  
You got world hunger  
Not enough to eat  
So there's really no time  
To be trippin' on me  
("WHY YOU WANNA TRIP ON ME")

## CHILDREN

### \*\*\*CHILDLIKE QUALITIES\*\*\*

Children show me in their playful smiles the divine in everyone. This simple goodness shines straight from their hearts. Being with them connects us to the deeper wisdom of life. These children are a reminder of the preciousness of all life, especially young lives untouched by hatred, prejudice and greed. Now, when the world is so confused and its problems so complicated, we need our children more than ever. [...] Children are the world's foremost idealists and optimists. The world desperately needs their innocent perspective on the world's problems.

I love children and learn so much from being around them.

The magic, the wonder, the mystery and the innocence of a child's heart are the seeds of creativity that will heal the world. I really believe that. What we need to learn from children isn't childish. Being with them connects us to the deeper wisdom of life which is ever-present and only asks to be lived. They know the solutions that lie waiting to be recognized within our own hearts.

This is not an intellectual kind of intelligence, but an intelligence that is full of wonder, magic, mystery and adventure. In this intelligence, there is love, there is trust, there is joy and there is beauty. It is the kind of intelligence that will heal the world.

I know a wise little girl who cannot walk. She is confined to a wheelchair, and she may spend the rest of her life there, since her doctors hold out almost no hope of ever making her paralyzed legs better. When I first met this little girl, she flashed me a smile that burned me with its blazing happiness. How open she was! She wasn't hiding out from self-pity or asking for approval or protecting herself from a sense of shame. She felt completely innocent about not being able to walk. [...] She made no judgments about herself. That was her wisdom.



I have seen the same wise look in other children, "poor" children as society sees them, because they lack food, money, secure homes, or healthy bodies. By the time they reach a certain age, many of these children grasp just how bad their situation is. The way that adults look at their lives robs them of that first innocence that is so precious and rare. They begin to believe that they should feel bad about themselves; that this is "right". [...]

In their innocence, very young children know themselves to be light and love. If we will allow them, they can teach us to see ourselves the same way.

One sparkle from a little girl's gaze contains the same knowledge that Nature implants at the heart of every life-form. It is life's silent secret, not to be put into words. It just knows. It knows peace and how not to hurt. It knows that even the least breath is a gesture of gratitude to the Creator. It smiles to be alive, waiting patiently for ages of ignorance and sorrow to pass away like a mirage. I see this knowledge showing itself in the eyes of children more and more, which makes me think that their innocence is growing stronger. They are going to disarm us adults, and that will be enough to disarm the world. They feel no reason to spoil the environment, and so the environment will be cleaned up without a quarrel. A wise little girl told me the future when she looked at me, so full of

peace and contentment. I rejoice in trusting her above all the experts. As light and love drive away our guilt and shame, her prophecy must come true.

They are going to find some amazing things about children. [...] Stuff, that was there all along, amazing things about the mind of children and how incredibly amazing they are – God-like. I really believe that. People are going to open the door to a lot of brilliance... The outlook on children is going to change. I have never talked down to Prince and Paris. I never do because they are amazing. You can't, they are much smarter than we think. The baby-talk thing is going to go away. You won't do the "gooo gooo ga ga". They are so smart, they understand as intellectuals everything we say. They are much brighter than anyone could ever imagine. They are in alpha state. They understand the subconscious. We don't understand. We are the ones that really don't understand who they are.

I feel that they are more than just children – that they are all little geniuses and that they have a secret all of their own. A secret that they cannot always express... I studied child psychology because of my love for children – all over the world...

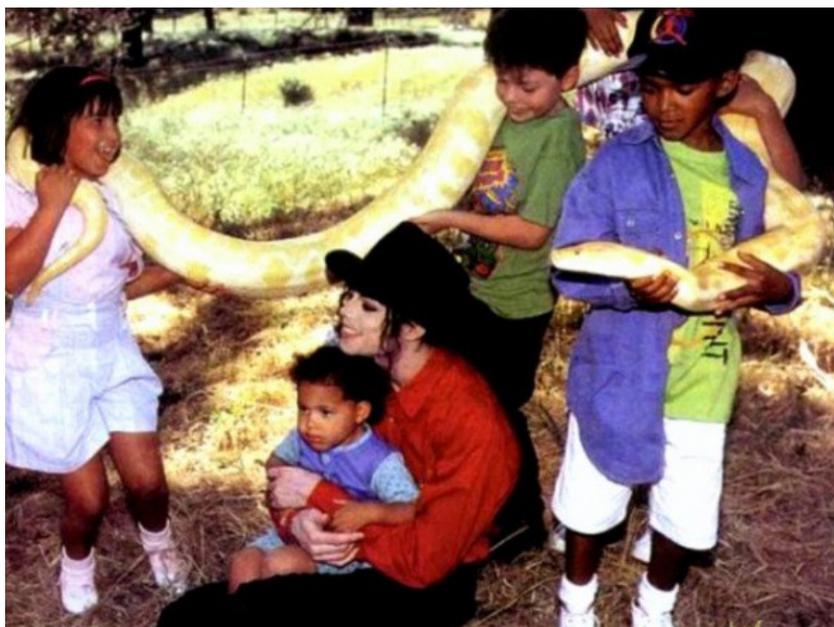
Children are more than adults.

Children are the most brilliant people of all.

They know everything that people are trying to find out – they know so many secrets – but it's hard for them to get it out. I can recognize that and learn from it. They say some things that will astound you. They go through brilliant, genius stages, but when they become a certain age, they lose it.

There's a certain sense that animals and children have that gives me a certain creative juice, a certain force that later on in adulthood is kind of lost because of the conditioning that happens in the world.

That is the problem with adults: They lose that childlike quality. And that's the level of inspiration that is so needed and is so important for creating and writing songs and for a sculptor, a poet or a novelist. It is that same kind of innocence, that same level of consciousness, that you create from. And kids have it. I feel it right away from animals and children and nature.



The innocence of children represents to me the source of infinite creativity, and I feel that this is where all my creativity comes from.

That [the children's innocence] is the potential of every human being. But by the time you are an adult, you're conditioned. You're so conditioned by the things about you, and it goes.

If you are locked into a pattern of thinking and responding, your creativity gets blocked. You miss the freshness and magic of the moment. Learn to be innocent again, and that freshness never fades.

When children listen to music, they don't just listen. They melt into the melody and flow with the rhythm. Something inside starts to unfold its wings – soon the child and the music are one. I feel that way, too, in the presence of music, and my best moments of creativity have often been spent with children. When I am around them, music comes to me as easily as breathing.

My greatest inspiration comes from kids. Every song I write, every dance I do, all the poetry I write – it's all inspired from this level of innocence, that consciousness of purity. And children have that. [...] I just love being around that all the time.

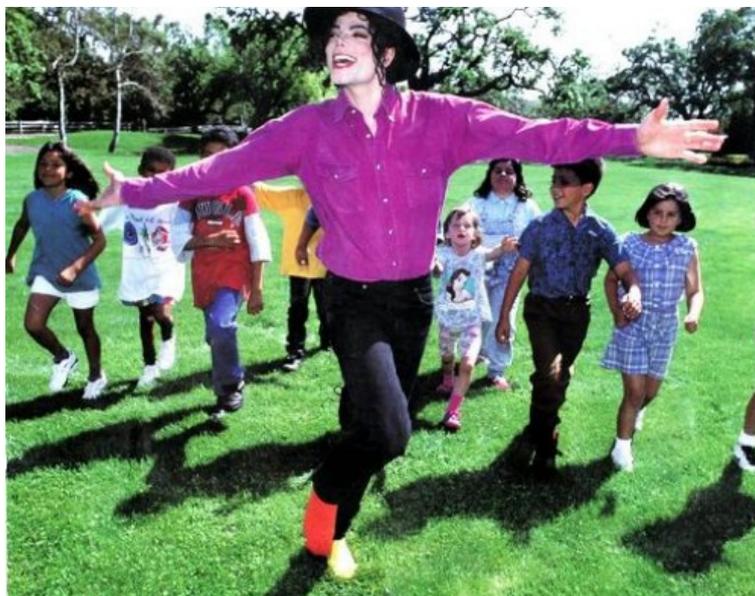
Children are my biggest inspiration in anything I do. I adore children.

Everything I created and all of my art and all of my talent that was given to me is completely inspired by children. [...] Every song I have written, from "Billie Jean" to "Beat It", to "Heal The World", to "We Are the World" – that's all from children.

Their love and support has kept me inspired to create magic through song and dance.

They give me my inspiration. They inspire me – everything I do, every song I write, every dance, everything that I do. People try to use it against me – and it's so unfair, and I'm very upset about it.

When I begin to feel a little tired or burdened, children revive me. I turn to them for new life, for new music.



Children come with the quintessence of bliss. You feel it in their smile and the light in their eyes. When they come into the room, you can feel them beaming. I can feel that. I could scream. Before every concert, they bring the kids to me. I have to see them before I go out, and my security knows that. To me it is like a B12 shot. I am ready to conquer the world now. I just got the reminder what it is all about. They inject it into me. I am ready to take on the universe. It's true. I did all of my albums for kids. It was my gift back. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Everything is for them. The greatest joy.

When a child steps in the room I am totally changed. I feel their energy, their presence and their spirit. I think we have to remember it is so easy for adults and parents to push them aside and not pay attention to them. But I think they have so much to say and we don't listen, we don't feel. It's almost hard to put into words.

My childhood was completely taken away from me. There was no Christmas, there were no birthdays, it was not a normal childhood, nor the normal pleasures of childhood – those were exchanged for hard work, struggle and pain – and eventually material and professional success. But as an awful price, I cannot re-create that part of my life.

All of us are products of our childhood. But I am the product of a lack of a childhood, an absence of that precious and wondrous age when we frolic playfully without a care in the world, basking in the adoration of parents and relatives, where our biggest concern is studying for that big spelling test on Monday morning.

I realize that many of our world's problems today – from the inner city crime, to large scale wars and terrorism and our overcrowded prisons – are a result of the fact that children have had their childhood stolen from them.

Who among us would have believed that the sound of children at their playground would be replaced by the sound of automatic machine-gun fire at our schools? That the sound of little girls skipping rope would be overshadowed by the frantic squeals of children dodging bullets? Yet, instead of loving our children more we've installed metal detectors in our schools. Are we blind to the fact that our children are raging against the indifference, crying out against the abandonment and thundering against the neglect?

We have to heal our wounded world. The chaos, despair and senseless destruction we see today are a result of the alienation that people feel from each other and their environment. Often this alienation has its roots in an emotionally deprived childhood.

Childhood has become the great casualty of modern-day living. All around us we are producing scores of kids who have not had the joy, who have not been accorded the right, who have not been allowed the freedom, or knowing what it's like to be a kid.

Today children are constantly encouraged to grow up faster, as if this period known as childhood is a burdensome stage, to be endured and ushered through as swiftly as possible. And on that subject, I am certainly one of the world's greatest experts.

It's not just the kids who are suffering. It's the parents as well.

To heal the kids, we first have to heal the child within each and everyone of us.

For the more we cultivate little adults in kids' bodies, the more removed we ourselves become from our own childlike qualities – and there is so much about being a child that is worth retaining in adult life.

A child's mind needs the nourishment of mystery, magic, wonder and excitement. I want my work to help people rediscover the child that's hiding in them.

Deep inside, you know it's true, just find that child, it's hiding in you.



**Elizabeth Taylor:** What makes Michael more unique may be the fact that all of his accomplishments, his rewards, have not altered his sensitivity and concern for the welfare of others, or his intense caring and love for his family and friends, and especially all the children the world over. [...] He is filled with deep emotions that create an unearthly, special, innocent, childlike, wise man that is Michael Jackson. I think Michael appeals to the child in all of us, and I think he has the quality of innocence that we would all like to obtain or to have kept.

**Michael Jackson:** When I see a child smile, I see the world shine.



There is no miracle in life that compares with watching your child come into the world.

[My children] mean – it's hard to put it into words because they mean everything. The way you would explain how your children make you feel... They're the world for me! I wake up and I'm ready for the day because of them. I get them breakfast, I change diapers. If they want to read, we do a lot of reading, we play hide and seek, we play blindfold and have a wonderful time with it.

I love my children so much. They have changed me and my outlook on life.

[They] help me understand that love is the answer to all that I am.

[Parenthood] reminds you to do what the Bible has always taught us. When the apostles were arguing among themselves over who was the greatest in Jesus' eyes, he said, "None of you," and called over a little boy and said, "until you humble yourself like this child."

It reminds you to be kind and humble and to see things through the eyes of children with a childlike wonderment. I still have that. I'm still fascinated by the clouds and the sunset. I was making wishes on the rainbow yesterday. I saw the meteor shower. I made a wish every time I saw a shooting star.

Prince and Paris changed me in so many ways. I learn as much from them as they learn from me. You learn about having a good heart and being a good-spirited person. And the way I am, I try to imitate them. People always say, "Act your age!" But I try and act more like children because they are the innocent, they are God-like, they are pure. I try to be as humble and sweet as they are.

They are so affectionate. They can teach us affection and it is quintessential affection and it is pure innocence. That's why I love them so much. I am in love with innocence, that's what I'm in love with.

It's easy to mistake being innocent for being simpleminded or naive. We all want to seem sophisticated; we all want to seem street-smart. To be innocent is to be "out of it". Yet there is a deep truth in innocence. A baby looks in his mother's eyes, and all he sees is love. As innocence fades away, more complicated things take its place. We think we need to outwit others and scheme to get what we want. We begin to spend a lot of energy protecting ourselves. Then life turns into a struggle. People have no choice but to be street-smart. How else can they survive? When you get right down to it, survival means seeing things the way they really are and responding. It means being open. And that's what innocence is. It's simple and trusting like a child, not judgmental and committed to one narrow point of view.

I want to show the world through the eyes of a child because I understand them so much. Their pain and their joy and their laughter and what hurts them. And I see the world through their eyes.

I think children, especially the young ones, have a special magic. And it's great to be around that.

Grown-ups are really nothing but children, who have lost that real magic.

If we can hold on to the magic, to that child that lives inside of you and me, that is still there, I think that's the greatest magic in the world.

This is a time when a person reflects on the child that will always live inside him, but more importantly, the grown man that continues to emerge intellectually, but never lost his childlike innocence.



It's sad that people can't be more like children. I don't mean childish, but childlike.

If a child wants chocolate ice cream, he just asks for it. Adults get tangled up in complications over whether to eat the ice cream or not. A child simply enjoys.

Children are loving. They don't gossip, they don't complain – they're just open-hearted. They're ready for you. They don't judge. They don't see things by way of color.

The great thing about children is that they're not phoney or prejudiced. Whereas grown-ups pretend a lot of the time.

If a kid doesn't like you, he'll tell you. But adults pretend and put on phoney ways. I wish the world could be full of children!

They are the way I wish the world really was, because they are not phoney and they don't know prejudice. Prejudice is taught. If the world were full of only children, it would be a much better place.

My best friends are children and animals. They're the ones who tell the truth and love you openly and without reservation.

Children are the only ones who don't want anything of me.

The only demand they [children] make is to be treated fairly – and to be loved. I think that's what we all want.

They just want to have some fun and to give love and have love. And they just want to be loved and held.



Children have taught me to always be forgiving.

Children become friends in a second and they forgive in a second. It's the grown-ups who teach them how to hold a grudge.

I haven't been betrayed or deceived by children. Adults have let me down. Adults have let the world down.

I have seen how cruel people can be, how abusive, how judgmental, how they have hurt me. What has saved my life is children.

Children are just happy, whimsical and fun-loving. They have this excitement, this glow in their eye. And I have been in situations in meetings with a bunch of lawyers, and sometimes a kid will come in the room, and they will keep talking. And I make everybody stop, and they all have to say hello or show respect, to make the kid feel special.

In my family, we love children. If a baby or a child comes in, we all want to hug the child or pick him up. That's how my brothers and sisters are. I can't understand why people don't honor children, why they push them aside like they are nothing. That's what tomorrow becomes.

They [children] remind us to stay happy. Hang on, stay happy, be like them.

I think we are going to find out in this next [21st] century that there is something really magical about laughter. Whenever I feel real depressed and down and out, I force myself to laugh and I try to think of something funny and I feel better. I think some kind of chemical reaction takes place in the soul. I really feel better and I force myself to smile. I think just smiling, the muscles, it does something and I feel a lot better. I saw Prince smile for the first time, and my little cousin was there. And he was making little noises and he smiled, and it was the most heart-warming thing to see my son smile. He had just come home from the hospital. He was two days old. My eyes watered, [...] because he was responding and there was a contact going on between the two of them. I thought it was beautiful. I love that. Oh God, do I love to laugh.

When old people return to childhood, I have seen them, they become very playful and childlike. I relate very well to old people because they have those qualities of a child. Whenever I go to a hospital, I always find a way to sneak into another room to talk to the old people. I just did it two days ago because I was in the hospital. And they were so sweet and they just welcome you like a child does. They say, "Come in!" and we talk. They are simple and sweet.



Old people and children are very much alike. They are carefree and play-free and simple and sweet. It is just a spiritual feeling. I don't visit old people's homes as much as I have the orphanages. A lot of them get Alzheimer's and they don't recognize. But I have a great relationship with older people. I love talking to older people, and they can tell you stories about when they were kids and how the world was in those days, and I love that.

### \*\*\*GOD'S CREATION AND JESUS' MESSAGE\*\*\*

I will never deny a child love. If it means that I have to be crucified or put in jail for it, then that's just what they are going to have to do.

Throughout my life, I have only tried to help thousands upon thousands of children to live happy lives. It brings tears to my eyes when I see any child who suffers. I am not guilty of these allegations, but if I am guilty of anything, it is of giving all that I have to give to help children all over the world; it is of loving children of all ages and races, it is of gaining sheer joy from seeing children with their innocent and smiling faces, it is of enjoying through them the childhood that I missed myself. If I am guilty of anything, it is of believing what God said about children: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not – for such is the kingdom of heaven." In no way do I think that I am God, but I do try to be God-like in my heart.

I would never stop helping and loving people the way Jesus said to. He said, "Continue to love. Always love. Bring on the children. Imitate the children."

It's time for children now. It's time to give them a chance. Like the Bible says, "A child should be leader of them all." And to be led by that kind of innocence. Didn't Jesus say, "bring on the children, be like the children"? Not childish, but childlike – that kind of innocence.

Jesus said to love the children and be like children. Be youthful and be innocent and be pure and honorable... He was talking to his apostles. And they were fighting over who was the greatest among themselves, and he said: "Whoever humbles yourself like this child is the greatest among me." And he always surrounded himself like – with children. And that's how I was raised, to be like that and to imitate that.

I love to do things for children and I try to imitate Jesus. And no, I'm not saying I am Jesus, I'm not saying that... I'm trying to imitate Jesus in the fact that he said to be like children, to love children, to be as pure as children and to make yourself as innocent and to see the world through eyes of wonderment and the whole magical quality of it all. And I love that.

When I see children, I see the face of God. That's why I love them so much. That's what I see.

By loving children, I am able to see God. I see God through children. If it wasn't for children, I would not understand who God is, who He is – no matter what the Bible says, even though I love the Bible. But children are proof. You can write and talk all you want, but I see it.

There have been times in my life when I, like everyone, has had to wonder about God's existence. When Prince smiles, when Paris giggles, I have no doubts.

When I see a baby smile,  
I bubble with a sense of bliss.  
And I believe in that smile.  
I see God in that smile.



Those are moments we're one with God  
All is well, nothing is odd  
In silent reflection, we feel our perfection  
We are the source, we are the crucible  
Nothing can hurt us, for we are invincible  
There is no sin, there is no sinner  
We can only win, we have felt the glimmer  
In the bliss we're floating awhile  
Those are the moments when babies smile.



Nothing matches the beauty of a baby's smile. It fills my heart with so much joy and glee.  
Thank God babies smile.

Children are God's gift to us. No – they are more than that – they are the very form of God's energy and creativity and love. He is to be found in their innocence, experienced in their playfulness.

Innocence is God. To be that innocent and approach things with such a sweet outlook on life is truly just sweet. Where a kid will walk around the house, and you'll go: "What are you doing?" And they answer: "I don't know, playing." It's so sweet. I love that.

They're angels, they're perfect – they're God's greatest creation.

I think God outdid Himself when He created children.

I think they are the purest form of the creation of God.

Children – this is my opinion – represent the purest, the quintessence of honesty, of love, of God.

A great poet said once: "When I see children, I see that God has not yet given up on man."  
An Indian poet from India said that, and his name is Tagore.

I think God talks to us through children.

To me, they are God's way of saying there is hope, there is such a thing as humanity. Be like children, be humble like them, be sweet, be giving, be innocent. It shows in the eyes; I always see it in eyes. When you look in a child's eyes, you see just pure innocence. And it reminds me to be humble, to be sweet, to be really good.

I feel healed all over again. It's like being baptized. It's like God saying, "Michael, everything will be okay," when I look in the eyes of a child.

It's been the children. I am holding on for them or else I wouldn't made it. I really wouldn't have made it.

My most precious days as a child were those Sundays when I was able to be free. That is what the Sabbath has always been for me. A day of freedom. Now I find this freedom and magic every day in my role as a father.

When I became a father, my whole sense of God and the Sabbath was redefined. When I look into the eyes of my son, Prince, and daughter, Paris, I see miracles and I see beauty. Every single day becomes the Sabbath. Having children allows me to enter this magical and holy world every moment of every day. I see God through my children. I speak to God through my children. I am humbled for the blessings He has given me.

The amazing thing is, we all have the ability to make every day the precious day that is the Sabbath. And we do this by rededicating ourselves to the wonders of childhood. We do this by giving over our entire heart and mind to the little people we call son and daughter. The time we spend with them is the Sabbath. The place we spend it is called Paradise.



There is simply nothing more important to me. It's about all the beautiful lessons that adults can learn [...] It has always been my wish to dedicate the blessings and talents God has given me to the world's children. [This] is the fulfillment of my heart's dream, to recondition the world to the infinite blessing that children represent.

I'm not trying to be philosophical, but I really think it's my job to help them. I think it's my calling. I don't care if people laugh or what they say. Children don't have a mouth to society, and I think it is now their time. From here on out it is their time. They need the world's awareness and they need issues to deal with, and this is for them. And if I can be that light, that pedestal just to shine some light on who they are, and the importance of who children are, that's what I want to do. I don't know how God chooses people or plays chess with people, and He does put you in a position and sets you up. Sometimes I feel like that, like this is my place.

[I believe] God gave me this for a reason.

That will be remembered more than my performances.

**\*\*\*HELPING AND HEALING THE CHILDREN\*\*\***

They are amazing people.

A baby, a child – now, that's amazing.

They are the sunshine of the world.

I see beauty in all children. They are all beautiful to me.

I want to tell the children of the world:  
You are all our children.  
Each one of you is my child.  
And I love you all.

My children are your children,  
and all the children of the world  
are our children and our responsibility.

I worry about the children,  
all my children all over the world,  
I live for them.



I truly care about children and about the future for our children. I'm a little frightened about what the future is going to bring. I truly, truly love them and care about them. I will always help them.

There is nothing more important that I can do with my life than to make the lot of the world's children a better one. If children can be saved and their lives improved, we can truly heal the world.

There must be a global resolve that the 21st century will bring about caring and protection of our children. And above all, universal love. [...] We are all touched by the atrocities committed against children: sexual and physical abuse, child slave labor, forced homelessness, educational neglect... We feel ashamed, angry, appalled. But there is no action... NO action.

In these days of such abundance and advancement in what we can do, it pains me to think that we do so little for our children.

We are behaving like people without compassion and love for the most vulnerable section of society. The children of the universe are without a spokesperson – they are voiceless...

Our children are the most beautiful, most sweet, most treasured of our creations. And yet, every minute at least 28 children die. Today, our children are at risk of being killed by diseases and by the violence of war, guns, abuse and neglect. Children have few rights and no one to speak for them. They have no voice in our world. God and nature have blessed me with a voice. Now I want to use it to help children speak for themselves. I have founded the "Heal The World Foundation" to be

the voice of the voiceless – the children. Please join with me and the children to help heal the world together.

Our goal is to change the world and change world consciousness about children, the ecology and the planet, to make it a better place for everybody, starting with the children. 'Cause that's the future we live, and I'll stick with it forever until it's done.

[We have to] get out the message of the need to heal our children and heal the world. [...] To recognize that we need each other and must care for one another, help inspire us to develop this relief effort for children. To make a real difference, we must all care and commit to be a part of the solution. I know you all share my concern for inner-city children who are spread all around us. We must join together to make this world a better place for each of them.

[It] is about doing something, about making a difference and trying to help adults and parents realize that it's in our power to change the world that our children live in. As a wise man once said, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?"



If one person just helped one child, just helped one child – they'd done so much. [...] 'Cause it's a lot to be done, and children all over the world are in such need.

Let us Dream of Tomorrow, where our Children are Nurtured, and Protected and Nourished.  
Let us Dream of Peace and Harmony and Laughter.

Peace is possible around the world, and children are the answer.

I pray for peace all the time, and the most important thing I pray for is the protection for children and babies. That's the thing that concerns me the most.

You need love. You need love. That's the most important thing. That's why I feel so bad for those kids who sit in those orphanages and hospitals and they're all alone and they tie them to the beds – they tie them because they don't have enough staff. I go: "Are you crazy?" And I go to each bed just freeing them, releasing them. I say: "This isn't a way to do children. You don't tie them down."

They would tie the babies to the bed or chain the children down. We'd go unchain... We'd go free all these babies. I hated that – countries like Romania and Prague, Czechoslovakia and all that, Russia. You should see what they do to the children in those... You'd be shocked. They chain them to the wall like they're animals and they're naked and they slept in their tinkle and their feces, too. It's just so sad, it made me sick. So we brought clothes and toys and just love and love. I love them and I went back every day visiting them, hugging them, wanting to take each one of them to Neverland.

They are sick because they are depressed. Their mind is depressing them. [...] They walk around with no mother. They drop them off, they leave – a psychological degradation of that. They reach out to me: "Please take me with you." [...] I love them. I love them because I didn't have a childhood. I had no childhood. I feel their pain. I feel their hurt.

I never had a childhood. When they [children] are in pain, I feel their pain. And when they're in despair, I feel their despair.

I can feel children, I can feel them. If they are hurting in any way, I want to be there for them, wherever there is pain.

If I know kids are hurting, that hurts me the most. That hurts me more than anything. I can't pretend that I don't feel it because I feel it so strongly.



I just was feeling all the pain of the children who suffer and I was hurting so much. That's why I was trying to reach any child I knew who had pain. [...] I was trying to like, calling, dialing and I woke up the first thing, the first person I called was [a terminally ill girl's] house, and she was gone already. It hurts me. But I think that's where my real love comes from.

I guess you feel the pain just hearing about the things we see on television or on the radio, you know, the statistics about the kids – I mean, I've heard about this year 2,6 million children die from preventable diseases, and millions of children die from child abuse, just violence which – it doesn't have to be. And I just feel so bad from things like that.

I'm touched and moved by everything that happens, especially to children. It gets me emotionally sick, and I go through a lot of pain when I see that type of pain. I can't pretend as if I don't see it. It affects me very much.

I love to travel and, so far, I've been lucky enough to see a great deal of the world. In certain parts of the globe, I've seen hungry children walking the streets with no shoes on. I'm very concerned about the hungry children of the world and I hope I can do something positive to help alleviate this problem.

I've seen so much. I've been in the poorest and richest of homes. Sometimes, I just want to take all the children of the world in my arms. In the Philippines and Africa, people are living in cardboard houses. You can watch the wind blow them down. It's sad.

I have wanted to help these suffering children for a very, very long time. These innocent children are in such pain because of the greed and political disagreements of us adults.

I just wish they [politicians] would do more for the babies and children, help them more. That would be great, wouldn't it?

This performance [of a children's choir in Bucharest] was one of the most amazing performances I've ever seen in my entire life. And I'm not just saying that, I really mean it from my heart. It was the highest in artistic presentation. And I only wish all of the world leaders could be here to see this because I think they would think twice when they so quickly send our brothers to the killing fields.

I don't like to see anybody hurt or suffer, especially children.

But what I like to do is help other children who are less fortunate than I am. You know kids who are terminally ill, kids who have diseases, poor children from the inner cities, you know the ghettos, to let them see the mountains, or to let see or go on the rides, or to watch a movie, or to have some ice cream or something.

Neverland appeals to the child inside of every man, woman and child. [...] It's a place where I feel that you can return to your childhood. You find grown-ups, you know, doing things they haven't done since they were like ten years old.

It is just a serene and tranquil place to just relax and enjoy yourself and leave your troubled mind and things that irritate you in your heart and in your soul behind. Once you enter the gates, it's just a very wonderful, quiet, loving place, where there is lakes and rolling hills and grass and trees and rides and trains.

We have elephants and giraffes and crocodiles and every kind of tigers and lions. And we have busloads of kids who [otherwise] don't get to see those things. They come up, sick children, and enjoy it. They enjoy it in a pure, loving, fun way.

And there are so many children in the city who haven't seen the mountains, who haven't been on a carousel, who haven't pet a horse or a llama, never seen them. So if I can open my gates and see that bliss, an explosion of screaming laughter from the children, and they run on the rides. I say, "Thank you, God." I feel I've won God's smile of approval because I'm doing something that brings joy and happiness to other people.



And we have handicapped kids, kids with cancer, terminally ill children, leukemia kids, [children invited through] "Make A Wish Foundation", "Dream Street"... We've been doing this for over 9, 10, 11 years. And I did it before in my mother's house in Encino. We never wave a flag, we never try to get press for it. I do it quietly. [...] By the busloads they come, we don't allow cameras or videos. I do it quietly. 'Cause real charity is from the heart, you know – not to say, "Look at me, look what I'm doing." It's quietly from the heart. And I've done this for years – many, many years...

At my ranch at Neverland, we have many terminally ill children as our guests. We do this every few weeks. We do it because we truly love them and we care.

Every three weeks we have terminally ill children that come. And these are sick children, children with cancer. And I entertain them. And they come here to enjoy themselves. [...] It brings out the child that lives in everybody. I love rides and things like that and I share it with the children.

I've seen dying children light up with joy. I've seen children who've been pronounced to have a week to live. They've told me that they have cancer all over their body. And I said: "Let me take care of that child, just give him a little time with me." And they come to Neverland.

And we'll have like a hundred bald headed children, they all have cancer, and they're all running around. And they are enjoying themselves, and it makes me cry happy tears that I was able to do this for them, you know, makes me so pleased inside.

We have children that come who are fed intravenously. They are very sick, bedridden – they can't sit up. And these beds, they are hospital beds – you push a button, you go up or you go down, and they are able to watch. We have a magic show, we show the current films, there's cartoons, anything, so that they can escape to that world of magic that they don't have a chance to experience – the world I was deprived of when I was little.



My fondest memory here was one night we had a houseful of bald-headed children. They all had cancer. And one little boy turned to me and said: "This is the best day of my life." You had to just hold back the tears.

When I first saw him [the accuser Gavin Arvizo], he was totally bald-headed, white as snow from the chemotherapy, very bony, looked anorexic, no eyebrows, no eyelashes. And he was so weak, I would have to carry him from the house to the game room, or push him in a wheelchair, to try to give him a childhood, a life. Because I felt bad. Because I never had that chance, too, as a child, you know? And so, I know what it felt like in that way. Not being sick, but not having had a child-

hood. So, my heart goes out to those children, I feel their pain. [...] He had never really climbed a tree. So, I had this tree that I have at Neverland. [...] I said, "You have to climb a tree. That's part of boyhood. You just gotta do it." And I helped him up. And once he went up the tree, we looked down on the branches. And it was so beautiful. It was magical. And he loved it. To give him a chance to have a life, you know? Because he was told he was going to die. They [his doctors] told him. They told his parents to prepare for his funeral, that's how bad it was. And I put him on a program. I've helped many children doing this. I put him on a mental program.

With just a little love and a little caring, I have seen kids totally turn around. Where you can't find any cancer at all anymore in their body. I've done it a lot of times. I'm not trying to say I'm Jesus Christ. We should just give a little more attention to the power of love and caring and faith and prayer.



What I usually do on my off days: I do as many hospitals as I do concerts. I do as many orphanages as I do concerts. But, because it's good news, the press don't cover it. They want bad news.

That's not why I do it, for coverage. I do it because it's from my heart.

I spend a lot of free time when I'm traveling, visiting children's hospitals. It makes me so happy to be able to brighten those kids' day by just showing up and talking with them, listening to what they have to say and making them feel better. It's so sad for children to have to get sick. More than anyone else, kids don't deserve that. They often can't even understand what's wrong with them. It makes my heart twist. When I'm with them, I just want to hug them and make it all better for them.

I reach out, I've done it for years. I take the toys and I pack up everything and I surprise them.

We bring bags of toys and posters and albums, and you should see how it transforms these kids. They jump up and down and they're so happy.

I visit [...] terminally ill children.

I love them so much. They are my children, too. I remember we were in Australia and we were in this children-with-cancer ward. And I started giving out toys. And I'll never forget this one boy who was like eleven. And when I got to his bed he said: "It's amazing how just seeing you I feel so much better. I really do." I said: "Well, that's so sweet." That's what he said, and I have never forgotten it. It's amazing and that's what we are supposed to do.



I tell the kids: "I'll see you next year." And sometimes the thought that I'll be back next year makes them hang on. That's happened several times. People told me this girl was about to die, but I kept running into her three years in a row – and the fourth year she died. The doctors couldn't do anything, and for me to come in and help give her the gift of life really makes me feel good.

I saw this little kid [in a hospital in Budapest, Hungary], his name was Farkas. He was very sick. He was green in the face. But he had this glow, this sparkle in his eye. I asked his nurse: "What's wrong with this kid?" She said that he needs a liver. So, I said: "Does that mean he's gonna die?" She said: "Yes, he's gonna die unless he gets a liver." I said: "I'm not gonna let him die, this sweet, sweet angel – no matter what it takes, I'm gonna find a liver for him." So, I sent my organization around the world. We went all over the place, and it took a long time. And I said: "I'm not giving up. I'm not going to have the child die." I was so happy when I got a phone call. They told me: "We've found a liver!" And he has his life. I'm so proud that I could help him. God bless him. I love you, Farkas.



To continue the work I'm doing to help the children. And whatever I do, don't stop. To continue to love and to travel and to go to the hospitals. That was her [Lady Diana's] favorite thing about me, how much I loved them, sincerely from the heart.

She [Lady Diana] was just a wonderful, warm, compassionate person, very caring, very caring. It was real. It wasn't a publicity stunt. It was real. She really cared. I'm the same way. I feel the same way that she does about children and the future of our children and the future of the world.

I'm not easy and I know I'm not easy. Because I give all my time to someone else. I give it to children, I give it to somebody sick somewhere, to the music. That's my mission. I have to do it.

God gave me a mission, I feel, to do something for them [the children]. And they have given me the support and the belief and the love to hold on.

I have spent my entire life helping millions of children across the world.

I'm doing it because I sincerely care and love them and want to help out. I really feel bad for these kids.

If I were living for no other reason than to help and please kids, that would be enough for me.

I'm living for the children.

If it weren't for the kids, I would throw in the towel. I'd have no reason to live.

Because this is our future – all the children.

That's our future, and I love them to pieces. I want to fight for them, to be the voice of the voiceless.

Parents, communities, governments, all people of the world, we must put our children first.

Let's do what's right not only for ourselves, but for the children.

To all of the grown-ups I like to say this: To us, so many things seem important. Sometimes, we think we are important. Nothing is more important than our children! They are the future. They can heal the world. It is our obligation to be there for them, to advise them, to motivate them, to help them and to love them. Let us encourage them to go for their dreams. And let us as parents, friends and relatives help them to have good dreams.

I want them to be protected and to have more children's rights in the world. [...] Just show them, give them a little more attention and love.

I'm just very sensitive to their pain and I'm very sensitive to the family, the human condition, you know, on that subject. It means a lot to me and I want to help – whatever I can to help that.

I have such concern about the plight and the state of our children today. If there was one day where kids could get with parents and bond, this would make such a difference.

[Children] don't even eat with their fathers anymore, or their mothers. The family bond has been broken. It's an outcry for attention.

Ours is a generation that has witnessed the abrogation of the parent-child covenant. Psychologists are publishing libraries of books detailing the destructive effects of denying one's children the unconditional love that is so necessary to the healthy development of their minds and character. And because of all the neglect, too many of our kids have, essentially, to raise themselves. They are growing more distant from their parents, grandparents and other family members, as all around us the indestructible bond that once glued together the generations unravels.

Why are kids going to school with guns? They want to be touched, they want to be held, but they [the parents] are busy off on their day job and they leave them at home on the computer and they're just doing all kinds of crazy stuff. And that's destroying our bond.

A lot of kids today are hurt puppies who have weaned themselves off the need for love.

Let me paint a picture for you. Here is a typical day in America: Six youths under the age of 20 will commit suicide; 12 children under the age of 20 will die from firearms – remember this is a DAY, not a year – 399 kids will be arrested for drug abuse; 1,352 babies will be born to teen mothers. This is happening in one of the richest, most developed countries in the history of the world. Yes, in my country there is an epidemic of violence that parallels no other industrialized nation. These are the ways young people in America express their hurt and their anger. But don't think that there is not the same pain and anguish among their counterparts in the United Kingdom. Studies in this country show that every single hour three teenagers in the UK inflict harm upon themselves, often by cutting or burning their bodies or taking an overdose. This is how they have chosen to cope with the pain of neglect and emotional agony. In Britain, as many as 20% of families will only sit down and have dinner together once a year. Once a year! And what about the time-honored tradition of reading your kid a bedtime story? Research from the 1980s showed that children who are read to, had far greater literacy and significantly outperformed their peers at school. And yet, less than 33% of British children aged two to eight have a regular bedtime story read to them. You may not think much of that until you take into account that 75% of their parents DID have that bedtime story when they were that age.

Clearly, we do not have to ask ourselves where all of this pain, anger and violent behavior comes from. It is self-evident that children are thundering against the neglect, quaking against the indifference and crying out just to be noticed. The various child protection agencies in the US say that millions of children are victims of maltreatment in the form of neglect, in the average year. Yes, neglect. In rich homes, privileged homes, wired to the hilt with every electronic gadget. Homes where parents come home, but they are not really home, because their heads are still at the office. And their kids? Well, their kids just make do with whatever emotional crumbs they get. And you don't get much from endless TV, computer games and videos. These hard, cold numbers, which for me wrench the soul and shake the spirit, should indicate to you why I have devoted so much of my time and resources into making our new Heal the Kids initiative a colossal success. Our goal is simple: to recreate the parent/child bond, renew its promise and light the way forward for all the beautiful children who are destined one day to walk this earth.

We need to bond again, that's very important.

What has never been in dispute is that children have certain inalienable rights, and the gradual erosion of those rights has led to scores of children worldwide being denied the joys and security of childhood. I would therefore like to propose [...] that we install in every home a Children's Universal Bill of Rights, the tenets of which are:

1. The right to be loved, without having to earn it
2. The right to be protected, without having to deserve it
3. The right to feel valuable, even if you came into the world with nothing
4. The right to be listened to, without having to be interesting
5. The right to be read a bedtime story, without having to compete with the evening news
6. The right to an education, without having to dodge bullets at schools
7. The right to be thought of as adorable, even if you have a face that only a mother could love.

From this day forward, may a new song be heard: Let that new song be the sound of children laughing. Let that new song be the sound of children playing. Let that new song be the sound of children singing. And let that new song be the sound of parents listening.

Together, let us create a symphony of hearts, marveling at the miracle of our children and basking in the beauty of love. Let us heal the world and blight its pain. And may we all make beautiful music together.

I will never forget that the children are our future, and without them, mankind would become extinct.

Forever, continue to love, heal and educate the children. The future shines on them.

The future is our children. I will continue to fight for them for the rest of my life.

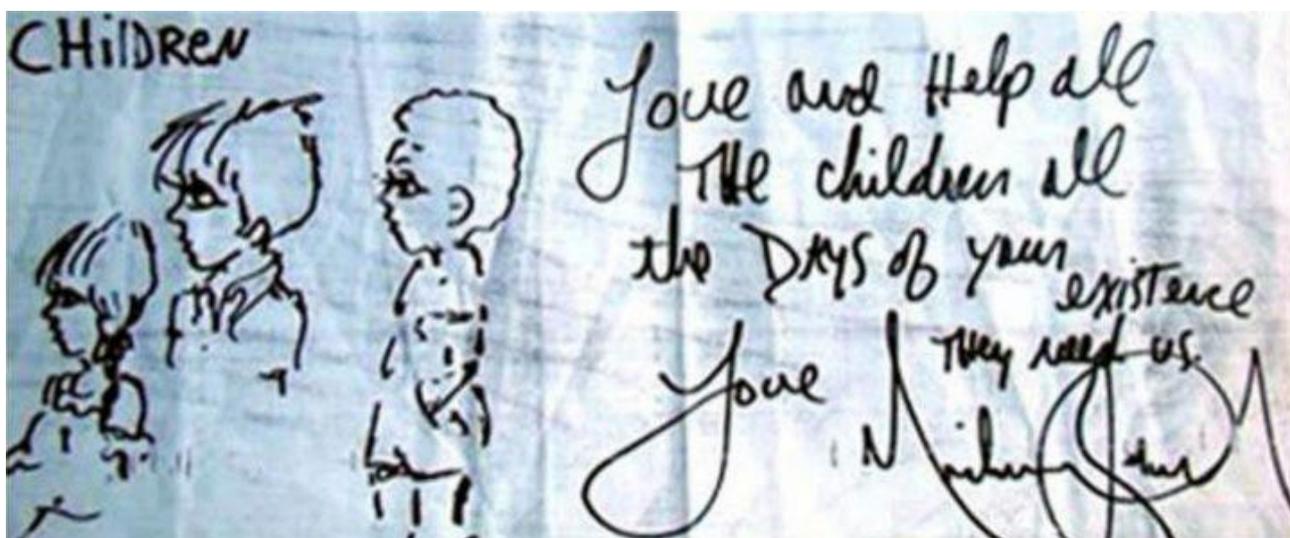
Everything in my heart is for them.

Love and help all the children  
all the days of your existence.

They need us.

Love

Michael Jackson



Note of the compiler

*This is not a scientific paper but the attempt to assemble complementary quotes.*

*I did not want to disturb the reading flow by referring to footnotes or annual details, so I chose to omit a bibliography. Most of the quotes can be looked up on the following websites (the work of their admins should be highly acknowledged):*

<http://www.truemichaeljackson.com>

[http://bluemoon.fem.jp/dancing/d\\_poem\\_e.html](http://bluemoon.fem.jp/dancing/d_poem_e.html)

<http://www.reflectionsonthedance.com/The-Real-Michael.html>

<http://www.allmichaeljackson.com/speeches/oxforduni01.html>

[http://www.thesilencedtruth.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=333&Itemid=66](http://www.thesilencedtruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=333&Itemid=66)