

全能、全足的神

THE ALMIGHTY, ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD

EL SHADDAI

אֵל שַׁדַּי

創世記 Genesis 17:1-2



馬利蘭福音教會 MGC 1/31/2021

Introduction 引 言

Today's message title goes by a Hebrew word

אֵל שַׁדַּי

In English it is written as **El Shaddai**
and pronounced as



el-shad-di



El Shaddai is one of God's names which was first revealed to Abram in Genesis 17 .

What is in God's Names

In the Scripture, a person's name revealed important information about the individual. A person's name is frequently seen as an equivalent of that person.

God reveals Himself to us through His many names.

Getting to know God by His names is more than simply learning a new word or discovering a new title He goes by.

It opens up the door to knowing God's character more fully and experiencing His power more deeply.

The Benefits of knowing God's Name 認識神名的益處

God has a name for every situation we find ourselves in, so we can call upon His different names in different situation (在不同境況求告祂不同的聖名). We need to learn the names of God because when we know His character and His capacity, we will find rest and deliverance.

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. Ps. 9:10
耶和華阿、認識你名的人要倚靠你。因你沒有離棄尋求你的人。
Psalm 詩篇 9:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (Proverbs 18:10)
耶和華的名是堅固的高臺，義人投奔，便得安穩。箴言 18:10

“Because he loves Me, I will deliver him; because he knows My name, I will protect him. (Psalm 91:14)
神說、因為他專心愛我、我就要搭救他。因為他認識我的名，我必保護他。。 (詩篇 91:14)

The Scripture & His Holy Name 經文與祂的聖名

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am **God Almighty**; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Gen. 17:1-2

亞伯蘭年九十九歲的時候、耶和華向他顯現、對他說、我是**全能的神**、你當在我面前作完全人。我要與你立約、使你的後裔極其繁多。 創 17:1-2

In the original text **God Almighty 全能的神** is a Hebrew word

אל שדי El Shaddai

El is another name that is translated as "God"

But neither the English nor Chinese translation spells out the exact meaning of **Shaddai** in the original Hebrew text.

Shaddai most common means mighty. But it also carries the meaning of the sufficiency of a mother's breast to nourish her children

The best definition for **El Shaddai** is a combination of the 2 meanings. So, this name points to **two major attributes (屬性)** of God:

(1) Omnipotence 全能 (2) Sufficiency 全足

This is rightly so because God's power works hand-in-hand with God's sufficiency.

The Scripture

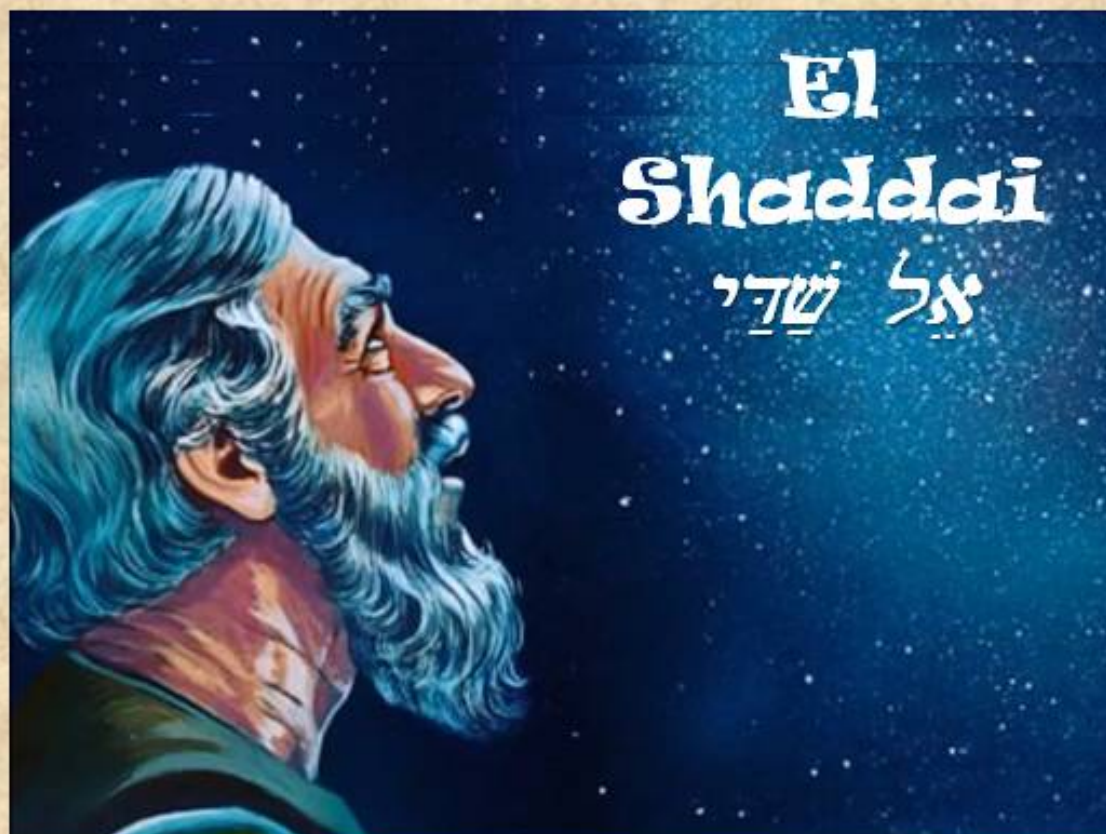
經文

In Genesis 17 God followed up with Abram on a promise and a covenant He made with him earlier in Genesis 15.

God **1** reconfirmed His covenant **2** spelled out the details in His promise and **3** instructed Abram what to do on his part.

Some questions come naturally to our mind as we read Genesis 17

- Why did this take place when Abram was 99 years old?
- Why did God revealed this particular name to Abram?
- What can we learn from the revelation of this name?
- What are the implications of knowing this name?
- How can we experience the reality of El Shaddai?



The Call & the Promise 呼召與應許

To get a good understand of Gen. 17, we need to look back to Abram's life in the past:

Abram at 75

God appeared to Abram
gave him a call and a promise

The call 呼招 "Leave your **country**, your **people** and your father's **household** and go to the land I will show you." 你要離開本地、本族、父家、往我所要指示你的地去。(創Gen. 12:1-4a)

The promise 應許 "I will make you into a **great nation** and I will bless you; I will make your **name great**, and you will be a (**great blessing**). and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 我必叫你成為大國。我必賜福給你、叫你的名為大、你也要叫別人得福。你也要叫別人得福..地上的萬族都要因你得福

So Abram left. 亞伯蘭就照著耶和華的吩咐去了 創 12:1-4a

God promised Abram :

A) land
(Gen. 創 15)

B) decendants
(Gen. 創 17)

C) great blessings
(Gen. 創 22)

The story of Abraham in the Bible basically tells us how Abraham obtained all these three promises by faith.

Fear & Faith

懼怕與相信

**Abram
between
75 - 85**

As time went by, fear & anxiety crept into Abram's mind. He reasoned that since he & his wife remained childless, so **he assumed** that after he die God's promise and blessings will be inherited by his household servant

At that dark moment God appeared to Abram and revealed **some new information: Abram would have an heir from his own body** & his decendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

This is the **Birth of a Vision**
(異象的產生) - **the beginning of faith** (信心的開始)

The Bible said: Abram believed God and it was "credited it to him as righteousness. 亞伯蘭信神、神就 "以此為他的義"

On that day God made a covenant with Abram on the lands Abram's decendants would receive in the future



Trial of Faith

信心的試煉

**Abram
at 85**

**Death of the Vision – trial of faith
異象的死亡 - 信心的試煉**

Abram & Sarai waited for the promised son year after year. But the child didn't come and it became clear Sarai's womb was barren. They realized the window of opportunity had gone and their hope for a child had vanished



Sarai came up with a “bright” idea: give her maidservant Hagar to Abram as a concubine (妾), or rather as a surrogate mother (代孕母)

Abram reasoned: “that will do it” and took Sarai’s advice.

Abram at 86

Indeed almost immediately Hagar became pregnant and bore a son for Abram the next year when Abram was 86 years old.



So the problem seemed not that difficult to solve. All they needed was a little bit of ingenuity (聰明 機智). They should have used that “God given intelligence” earlier and not wasted all those years in the past.

Abram & Sarai felt that their mission has been accomplished & the job God gave them done.

Something Wrong ?

弄 錯 了 嗎 ?

But something didn't seem right – God's blessing seemed to be absent

1

There was no congratulation or commendation from God. In fact God kept silent – for a long 13 years.

**THIS IS ALL
YOUR FAULT!**

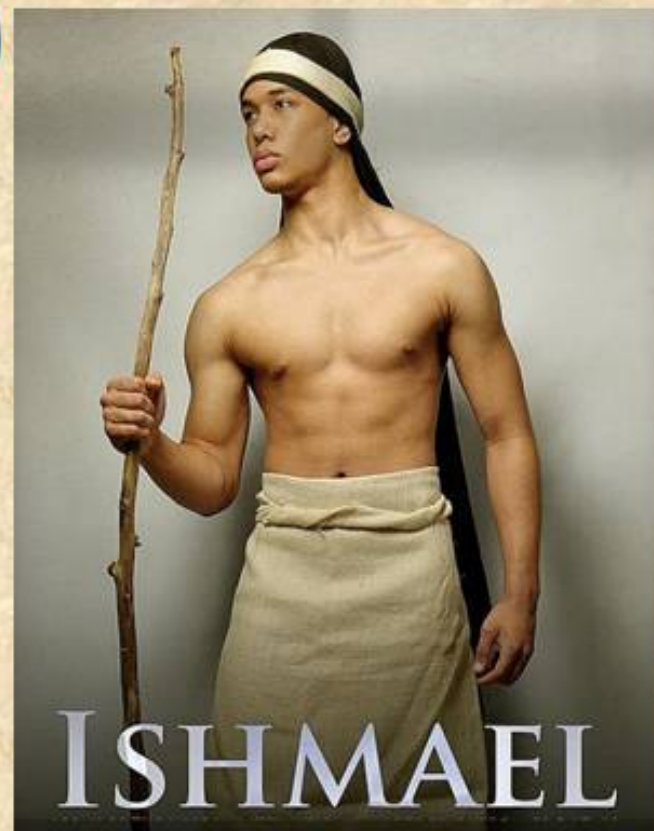


2

Conflicts erupted between Sarai & Hagar, so love, peace and harmony disappeared from Abram's home.

3

The little boy (Ishmael) grew up to be like a wild donkey and his character was quite hostile. He also like to mock at people.



So Sarah gives maidservant Hagar to Abraham to bear his child. Hagar becomes pregnant and Abraham finds himself stranded on the **THIN ICE** of marriage. **Ge 16:5**

The Hagar Way 夏甲之法

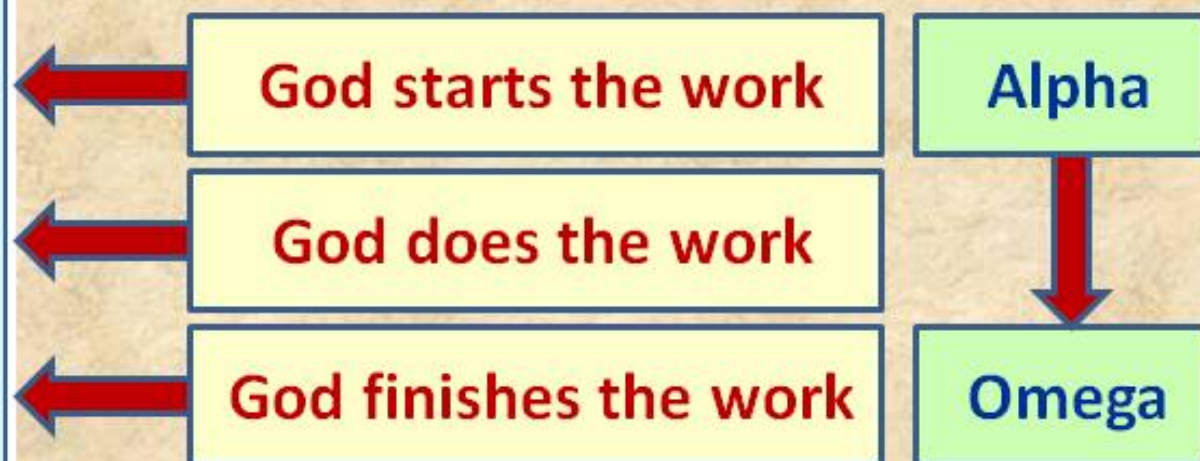
What was wrong with Abram getting a child from Hagar?

- 1 It was based on a **wrong assumption** (錯的假定). Since up to that point God hadn't told them the child must come from Sarah, they assumed it was OK to beget the child from Hagar without checking with God.
- 2 It was based on a **wrong concept of God**. They had not come to understand God Almighty. They thought perhaps they could be a little bit helpful to God in getting His program rolling. In other words they **thought God was insufficient** to carry out His plan.

The Work of God 神的工作

- 1 Initiation – God's Will
起始 – 神的旨意
- 2 Progression – God's Power
進行 – 神的能力
- 3 Completion – God's Glory
結局 – 神的榮耀
(Watchman Nee 倪柝聲)

- 3 It was based on a **wrong understanding** how God works.



The Hagar Way vs. The Sarah Way

夏甲之法與撒拉之法

Hagar and Sarah represent two different means to achieve God's goal 夏甲和撒拉喻表達到神目標的兩個途徑：

Hagar 夏甲	Sarah 撒拉
Man's thoughts & ways. 人的意念與道路(方法)	God's thoughts & ways. 神的意念與道路(方法)
Achieved thru the flesh 靠肉體(血氣)達成	Achieved thru God's power 靠神的恩典和大能達成

Like Abram, we tend to go the Hagar way as opposed to the Sarah way. God's way is often our last resort (神的路往往是我們最後的辦法)

Abram took pride in his accomplishment thru Hagar and felt complacent with Ishmael as his heir to fulfill God's plan. But later God told Abraham that His plan for him only involves Isaac, not Ishmael. (創 Gen. 17: 18-19)
Like Abram, we also often take pride in the works of our flesh & feel complacent with our achievements outside of God's plan.

Abram's mistake resulted in hostility between the descendants of God's promised child Isaac (the Jews) and the descendants of Ishmael (the Arabs). This has been the case even today. It was a profound mistake

Game Over 完了

Abraham and Sarah have waited for a child of their own for 25 years.

**Abram
at 99**

They faced the cruel reality that they both have passed the age to produce a child. They were delighted they got a child thru Hagar before Abraham quit.

Abraham's body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. (Romans 4:19)

亞伯拉罕將近百歲的時候、看透了自己的身體如同已死、撒拉的生育已經斷絕 (羅 4:19)

**Game Over
It is Finished
完了**

**BUT
但是**

**The End of Man
is the Beginning of God
God only begins where
man ends
人的盡頭 就是 神的起頭**



**At that very moment God
appeared to Abram and
introduced Himself as**

אל שדי

El Shaddai

God is Almighty & Self-sufficient. He doesn't need our help

A Turning Point in Life 生命的轉折點

The revelation of God as El Shaddai in Genesis 17 marks an important turning point in Abraham's life.

- 1 He started his **faith walk** with God (他在神面前的行事為人) in a new path to perfection
- 2 He got an **identity change** as God changed his name & his wife's name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude) and Sarai (princess) to Sarah (mother of many nations)
- 3 He made a **physical mark** (circumcision 割禮的記號) on his body and the bodies of all the males in his household in every generation
“For we are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and **put no confidence in the flesh.**”
(因為真受割禮的、乃是我們這以神的靈敬拜、在基督耶穌裡誇口、**不靠著肉體的**): (Phi 腓 3:3)
Therefore circumcision symbolize removal of the flesh and no longer rely on it (割禮喻表除去肉體/血氣, 不再倚靠它)
- 4 Abraham was assured that a miracle child (Isaac) would be born to him thru Sarah next year. The couple would **experience El Shaddai's power of resurrection** on Sarai's dead womb.

Walk Before God 在神面前行

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; **walk** before me **faithfully** and be **blameless**. 亞伯蘭年九十九歲的時候、耶和華向他顯現、對他說、我是全能的神、你當(憑信)在我面前(行事為人)作完全人 (Genesis 創 17:1)

To walk before God is to live in the presence of God 活在神面光之中
An incorrect / incomplete knowledge of God results in defective faith.
Knowing God as El Shaddai enables & requires Abraham to walk (by faith) blamelessly before God.

As in the case of Enoch, **walking with God requires faith**

Hebrews 11:5-6 tells us: By faith Enoch was taken from this life. But before he was taken, he was commended as one who **pleased God**. And without **faith** it is impossible to **please God**, because anyone who comes to God must **believe** that **He is** (**He is who He revealed Himself as**)

希伯來書11:5-6 說: 以諾因是著信被接去、只是他被接去以先、已經得了**神喜悅他的明證**。(這個明證就是以諾因著信得著神的喜悅)**人非有信、就不能得神的喜悅**。因為到神面前來的人、必須**信神是**(相信祂正如祂啟示給人知道祂是怎樣的神)。

The Triumph of Faith 信心的得勝

Abraham at 100

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. (Genesis 創 21:1-4)

耶和華按著先前的話、眷顧撒拉、便照他所說的給撒拉成就。當亞伯拉罕年老的時候、撒拉懷了孕。到 神所說的日期、就給亞伯拉罕生了一個兒子。他兒子以撒生的時候、亞伯拉罕年一百歲。



The 3-step process of vision & faith 異象和信心的三步曲

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | The birth of a vision
the beginning of faith | 異象的產生
信心的開始 |
| 2 | Death of the vision
the trial of faith | 異象的死亡
信心的試煉 |
| 3 | Fulfillment of the vision
the triumph of faith | 異象的實現
信心的得勝 |

Jesus Manifested Himself as God-Almighty

耶穌顯明祂是全能的神

On a number of occasions, Jesus performed miracles that demonstrated that He is God Almighty (El Shaddai). For example:

1 Mark 馬可 4:37-41 There was a furious storm in the sea when Jesus and his disciples were on their boat. Big waves pounded on the side of the boat and the boat was about to capsize. Jesus rebuked the wind and commanded the waves: "Quiet! Be still!" and the storm & wave went completely calm. The disciples were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this man (Jesus)? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" -- Well, **Jesus just manifested Himself as El Shaddai, the Almighty God**

2 On another occasions, Jesus raised a man named Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha (John 約 11). Jesus was told Lazarus was greatly ill, but Jesus didn't go immediately to heal him. When He got to their home, Lazarus had died for 4 days. The 2 sisters said to Jesus: "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died.". Jesus said: "**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies". Jesus then called Lazarus to come out from the grave and he did.

Once again, **Jesus manifested He is the Almighty El Shaddai, "the God who gives life to the dead** – the one Abraham believed (Rom 羅 4:19)

Jesus Manifested Himself as the All-sufficient God

耶穌顯明祂是全足的神

In performing the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus again demonstrated that He is the All-sufficient God El Shaddai.

John 約翰 6 recorded that 5,000 men (~20 K people including women & children) had been following Jesus all day long. When evening came, everyone was tired and hungry, including Jesus & His disciples.

Jesus knew exactly what needed to be done to feed the hungry crowd, but He wanted to test his disciples. So he posted this question to Philip, seemingly the most intelligent disciple: "'Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?' Philip quickly came up with his expert analysis: 'Eight months' wages 二十兩銀子 would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!. P.S. We don't have \$. So forget it, No way!'. Jesus asked 'Where', but Philip just kept looking@ how much \$ they got.

Then Andrew told Jesus: "Here is a little boy with 5 small loaves & 2 small fishes (a kid's meal). it was really pitiful how little resources they have.

So Jesus turned the kid's meal into a buffet for 20,000 people and filled everyone's stomach. They even wind up with 12 baskets of leftovers.

We all know this story. But the important point is: the disciples didn't realize the answer to Jesus question lies right HERE because El Shaddai, the all-sufficient God is in their midst. He is their biggest resource. Do we realize El Shaddai, our biggest resource is right here in our midst?



今昔的五餅二魚神蹟



**Feeding of the 5,000
- Then & Now**



約翰福音 John 6: 1-13 MGC 11/17/2019

Experience God Almighty 經歷大能的神

Paul showed us in Romans 7 another example of a person who experienced El Shaddai 在羅馬書七章裡 保羅又讓我們看到另一個人經歷到全能的神。

Here we see a person (the flesh, the old self) in sin's bondage. He has been struggling with sin with his own strength. But he could not overcome sin no matter how hard he tried.

這裏有一個人（一個舊人、肉體）被罪捆綁，不能自拔。他一直憑著自己的力量奮鬥與罪惡爭戰。但 無論他多努力嘗試，他總是失敗。

He came to the conclusion he could never win. So he cried out:

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 這個人到了一個地步他認定自己無法得勝。他苦喊說：“我真是苦阿、誰能救我脫離這取死的身體呢？”

Only when he came to this point and see his inability, God let him realized his victory is in Christ (El Shaddai). Thus he was set free and proclaim: “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord I can!”

只有當這個人到了這地步，看見自己不能，神才讓他看見得勝是在基督裡，因此這個人最後發出讚美說：“感謝神、靠著我們的主耶穌基督 El Shaddai 就能脫離了。”

Experience the All-sufficient God

經歷全足的神

God often does not show us His Omnipotence until He let us see our impotence. This is a lesson Paul learned in 2 Cor. 12

神往往不讓我們經歷到祂的全能，直到我們察覺到自己的無能。這就是保羅在林後 12 章學到的功課（這也是亞伯拉罕的經歷）

There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

有一根刺加我肉體上、就是撒但的差役、要攻擊我、免得我過於自高。為這事、我三次求過主、叫這刺離開我。

But he said to me, "My grace is **sufficient** for you, for my **power** is made **perfect in weakness**." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that **Christ's power** may **rest on me**.

祂對我說、我的恩典**够你用的**。因為我的**能力**、是在人的軟弱上**顯得完全**。所以我更喜歡誇自己的軟弱、好叫**基督的能力**覆庇我。

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses.. For **when I am weak, then I am strong**.

我為基督的緣故、就以軟弱、..為可喜樂的。因我甚麼時候軟弱、甚麼時候就剛強了。

Last Words 結語

What is preventing us from experiencing El Shaddai today ?
是什麼使我們今天無法體驗全能全足的神呢？

In this modern culture, the proclamation of God's power has gone silent in many churches. A God of love is more perceivable, more easily received, than a God who is sovereign and powerful
在現代文化裡，許多教會已經不再宣揚神的大能。因為一位愛人的神，比一位有主權和大有能力的神更容易被人感受到和接受。

We are too self-confident & full of expertise, we don't need to rely on God. 我們太自信和太有辦法了，不需要倚靠全能的神

In order to experience GOD's power and exceedingly abundant sufficiency, we must realize our own insufficiency. GOD cannot fill that which is already full.

若要體驗神的大能和祂超然的豐富，我們必須意識到自己的不足。神不能把祂超然的豐富放進已填滿了的空間。

A poem – song: Empty Hands 一首詩歌：空空雙手

EMPTY HANDS 空空雙手

a poem by William Cowper

One by one He took them from me,

祂一個一個的取去

All the things I valued most.

我所珍愛的一切

Until I was empty-handed;

直到我一無所有

Every glittering toy was lost.

失去所有寵愛玩物



Empty Hands 空空雙手

And I walked earth's highway grieving,

憂傷走在人生路上

In my rags and poverty;

一身披著襤褸

'Til I heard His voice inviting:

直至聽見慈聲呼喚

Lift your empty hands to me.

舉起你空空雙手

'Til I heard His voice inviting:

直至聽見慈聲呼喚

Lift your empty hands to me.

舉起你空空雙手

Empty Hands 空空雙手

So I turn my hands toward Heaven,

我便朝天舉起雙手

And He filled them with a store

祂以超然的豐富

Of His own transcendent riches,

塞滿我的雙手

'Til I could contain no more.

直到雙手無法容納更多

Empty Hands 空空雙手

Then at last I comprehended

惛鈍愚昧的我

With my stupered mind and dull,

終於恍然大悟

That God could not pour His riches

神無法將祂的豐富

Into hands already full.

放進抓滿東西的手

That God could not pour His riches

神無法將祂的豐富

Into hands already full.

放進抓滿東西的手

Response Song
回應詩歌

El Shaddai
全能的神（粵語）

אל שדי

El Shaddai（全能的神）



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltcl0r2j47E>

全能、全足的神

THE ALMIGHTY, ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD

EL SHADDAI

אל שדי

創世記 Genesis 17:1-2



馬利蘭福音教會 MGC 1/31/2021