

INFINITE GRACE

A MIRACULOUS AWAKENING

YVONNE BUSISIWE KGAME

PRAISE FOR INFINITE GRACE

The essence of life's journey is communication with our Creator in order to accomplish His Purpose. Quite often, we go placidly through life without hearing Him.

Mum Vonnie heard Him and responded, thus consummating her relationship with Him. JUDGE BAKONE JUSTICE MOLOTO, FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN LAWYER, NOW A JUDGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA (ICTY), IN THE HAGUE



I know what it is like to battle with every part of your body, willing it to live whilst aware that death could be very close by. This book helps the reader to understand what it is to walk the tight-rope, battling for your life. We get to understand why Yvonne had to fight for life and why she chose faith and prayer as her weapon through the long journey.

Infinite Grace is a meditation on loving, healing, and prayer. Yvonne's book is a mantra on how to believe, trust, and accept the gift of life. Indeed, it is through God's Infinite Grace. LAURETTA NGCOBO, NOVELIST, FEMINIST WRITER AND ACTIVIST, AUTHOR OF CROSS OF GOLD AND AND THEY DIDN'T DIE, EDITOR OF LET IT BE TOLD AND FIKI LEARNS TO LIKE OTHER PEOPLE



I have never had the thought that this is "a man's world," and that we as women cannot succeed. However in today's world, true success will require constant courage and complete honesty on our part. **DADI JANKI,** ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD OF THE BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY. FROM WINGS OF SOUL, IN HONOUR OF INFINITE GRACE

I used to say to Yvonne, "As a teacher and a writer, you can change the world through books and education." *Infinite Grace* will begin to do just that. **FRANCIE SHONIWA, FRIEND AND PUBLISHING COLLEAGUE**



The work Yvonne has done is astounding and will definitely inspire others to action when in such a situation. DR S R PILLAY, SURGEON, WITS DONALD GORDON MEDICAL CENTRE



I am ever so proud of Yvonne; she is courageous, wise, and extremely generous to share her life's journey and healing with us in *Infinite Grace*. Through her illness and miraculous recovery, we can all share her life lesson as we read about her journey to healing in *Infinite Grace*.

God wants us to learn something from Yvonne's illness, and I have learnt that our lives are in God's hands. I give gratitude to God as I say "How Great Thou Art."

I celebrate Yvonne's life, love, energy, uBuntu bakhe, her humility, and graciousness! **EMMA MASHININI,** PIONEER OF THE FORMATION OF THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (COSATU), AUTHOR OF STRIKES HAVE FOLLOWED ME ALL MY LIFE, AWARDED THE NATIONAL ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SOUTH AFRICA AND PRESENT AT THE ADOPTION OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER AT THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, KLIPTOWN, JOHANNESBURG



Being a young woman, I am delighted that I have had the opportunity to have a taste of Yvonne's wisdom and life experiences through *Infinite Grace* as these contribute to my personal growth. *Infinite Grace* is a book that every individual can learn from because Yvonne highlights many aspects that people are faced with that may be holding them back from moving towards something great in their lives. The book brings out the meaning of forgiveness very strongly, reminding me of what I have learned from my own parents: I am a soul beyond race, colour, creed, or gender.

Infinite Grace opened my eyes to considering new ways of healing. It has taught me how wide the world of alternative healing is and that it may be one of the best ways of healing physically, emotionally and spiritually. **PHILIA KAYA, FAMILY FRIEND**

INFINITE GRACE, A MIRACULOUS AWAKENING

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DEDICATION

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MY FIRST TEACHER; my maternal grandmother, Kotini Leah Ndinisa, the only grandparent I knew; and in acknowledgement of my other grandparents who departed this life before I was born.

To my parents who against all odds gave me my zest for life and faith and inspired in me a love of learning, even though their own opportunities to learn were limited.

With gratitude to my parents-in-law and the Kgame family, for embracing me as a blessing and teaching me acceptance.

To my husband Peter, sons Thokozane, Tshepo and Katlego, my daughters, Thuso and Lesego, my daughter-in-law Ntsiki, my sisters and their beloved husbands, my brothers and their beloved wives, and my extended family: thank you for choosing me. Thank you for taking this journey with me, for allowing me to be ME, for loving and supporting me unconditionally in every way possible.

A special thanks to my soul daughter, Michelle Rees, for her love, compassion and support, and for accepting me without judgement.

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CHAPTER 19

EXPRESSING GRACE AND GRATITUDE THROUGH SERVICE

"I BEGIN TO REALISE THAT IN INQUIRING ABOUT MY OWN ORIGIN AND GOAL, I AM INQUIRING ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN MYSELF ... IN THIS VERY REALISATION I BEGIN TO RECOGNISE THE ORIGIN AND GOAL OF THE WORLD." MARTIN BUBER

AS I REFLECT ON THE ROAD I have travelled, I realise that this magnificent journey of recovery is an unforgettable moment in the history of my life. It has been a gift of a noble opportunity to search my soul and cleanse the blockages in body, mind and soul at a deep level, some of which I was not even aware of. This journey provided me the opportunity to face my fears, self-doubt, the not-good-enough perception I had of myself and the self-imposed limitations that came as a consequence.

Today I am free and fully embrace the infinite grace granted to me by the Divine. I am conscious of this abundant grace daily as it surrounds me, as did those angels who guided and protected me on the way to the hospital that nearly fateful night.

I am more in tune with the rhythm of the universe and my new dance with life is one of joyful gratitude. I am overjoyed by the opportunities given to me to enjoy the gift of living in better alignment with the energy of the cosmos. It is indeed true that when we are in alignment with the universe, it has no choice but to grant its infinite grace to us.

I have come to accept that being true to my journey means having to leave behind some of those who once walked with me in the past, and joining with new souls who will walk with me on the new journey that lies ahead. My gift of grace has brought about acceptance of the changes in my life as I surrender to the Divine.

"I BELIEVE THAT MY LIFE'S PURPOSE AS A TEACHER COMPELS ME TO SHARE MY STORY WITH YOU."

I have come to realise that we are not confined to the events in this lifetime only. Our knowledge, wisdom and power gathered over time and space are woven together into a vast tapestry, creating intricate designs on our lives from which we can learn. What is required of us is an openness to explore that which we already have within and to align this with our divine purpose. When we do this, we begin to see the infinite possibilities that fill every precious moment of life.

This journey of grace continues to be an extraordinary adventure for me. I am aware of the myriad blessings streaming into my life every moment of every day and I accept that I am blessed. The core of my heart and soul has been opened and I feel, see, touch and taste the vast source of love and grace available to me. I am enjoying my rebirth and the divine gift of who I am, with the understanding that when we compare ourselves to others we see neither ourselves nor those we look up to. This is often the route that leads to our discomfort with ourselves and self-doubt.

My experience of the Divine's Infinite Grace could have ended as a mere personal encounter, a private moment with my Creator and the lessons I have had to learn. But I believe that my life's purpose as a teacher compels me to share my story with you. It is my hope that you will find something that will resonate with you and, hopefully, take you on your personal mission to find your own magnificence.



Yvonne with Ntsiki and Thokozane on their wedding day

I have tried to give you a rich and authentic portrayal of my experience, leading to the new place in which I find myself today. What is left for me to do as I come to the end of my story here is to share some of the insights and daily practices I believe have shaped my transformation. I hope that these points of light will illuminate a path to your own experience of the Divine. I also share with you some of the messages from loved ones who have shared in my experience and have witnessed the new light, love and laughter in me.

I consider the concept of Sacred Activism, developed by Andrew Harvey, an appropriate framework to adopt as I move into this beautiful and challenging new phase of my life. Sacred Activism has

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helped me to create ways in which to infuse the wisdom and love of all the earth angels in my sacred encounters, and their life-giving gifts, into a new way of being. Sacred Activism has provided me with a rhythm with which I step out to dance with life.

Sacred Activism, in essence, is a commitment to combine five integrated forms of service. The first is service through connectedness to the Divine – whoever you perceive the Divine to be. The second is service to yourself as an instrument of the Divine and the work you are meant to do in the world. The third form of service is to all sentient beings in your life. The fourth is service to your community and encouraging interaction with those around you for the greater good. Finally, recognising that you are a significant person on this planet, being a sacred activist involves service as a global citizen in the world.

Think of these five forms of service as the five fingers of your hand stretched out to bless and help the world.

"ASK THE DIVINE TO CONSTANTLY PROVIDE YOU WITH
SACRED WISDOM. KEEP YOUR HEART ON FIRE WITH
COMPASSION FOR ALL LIVING BEINGS."

SERVICE TO THE DIVINE

Without constant divine connectedness it is impossible to be a sacred activist – especially in a world as challenging as the one we live in. So turning to the Divine, in whatever way you imagine the Divine to be, and serving it in devotion, adoration and gratitude is the first step in service.

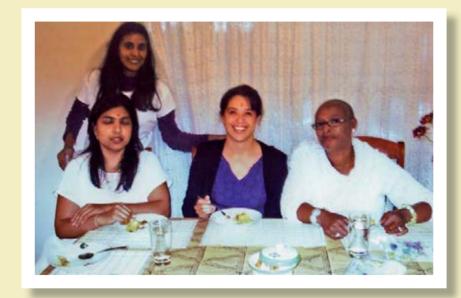
Ask the Divine to constantly provide you with sacred wisdom. Keep your heart on fire with compassion for all living beings, and keep filling your soul with sacred energy for the purpose you are called to.

The journey my Creator began with me on 14th June 2007 has reminded me of who I am and what I am here on this planet to do. Our conversations have brought my being into harmony and empowered me to go inside myself and accept who I am. This has brought about a deep peace within me and I continue to strive to live authentically despite the ups and downs of life.



JOY FINDS US AND LIFTS US

Ma'm Yvonne is no ordinary human being. For me she is a Messenger, the Knower of Truth. Her coming onto my path was no accident but a gentle reminder of where our goals ought to be manifested – in healing and helping.



Yvonne with Yashika (back) and friends Verona Duwarkah and Shameema Shaik at Yashika's house

Spending time at my home in the presence of His Holiness Sadhu Rangarajan was a divine moment to witness Ma'm Yvonne imbibing the grace and wisdom of His Holiness.

Yvonne constantly reminds me of the call to compassion and widening my circle of giving and caring, urging me to live in such a

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Top: Yashika Singh Bottom: Mandisa Mokgata

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way that, as the Indian Master Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, "My life is my message ..."

"Do not live in silos," Yvonne would advise daily. "You are bigger than you think you are."

Often when we prayed together (and we still do) the evocation of the chants, mantras and readings from spiritual texts stirred deep love within us.

As I saw her lying in her room at the time of her healing, a few weeks after she was diagnosed with the tumour, I reflected once more on the energy and passion of a Soul not of this world: for me, one from beyond time and beyond space.

"You are the Mother ... You are our mother. You have to live because your calling is a greater one," I whispered to her.

Her form as Yvonne is to serve, guide and be the instrument of change wherever she is placed.

YASHIKA SINGH - FRIEND, COLLEAGUE AND SOUL SISTER



PEACE

I first met Yvonne in a sombre atmosphere when we were both supporting a bereaved family. For me Yvonne is the embodiment of PEACE, she is about peace, she shares peace and she is peace. For me, everything in her being says, "Be still and trust in God."

I am grateful that God has made it possible for our paths to cross. Yvonne, your aura inspires me.

Thank you, Yvonne, for making time for your fellow human beings. Thank you for sparing a moment to constantly send us inspiring messages.

Lots of love to you and your family.

Thank you to them for sharing you with us. MANDISA MOKGATA

A GREAT FRIEND OF SUBSTANCE

Where are friendships born? It could be at school, at work, at a party or any other meeting place. My friendship with Yvonne is unique – it was born in the "ladies" at Macmillan Swaziland offices. The chemistry was awesome. We spoke about beauty; we joked and laughed before we introduced ourselves to each other. We agreed on one thing: "People meet and connect for a reason but fail to follow through." We promised to stay in touch – Yvonne was based in the Johannesburg office and I was in the Swaziland office. When I reflect on this chance meeting, I am always most grateful that our paths crossed.

"THIS HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A DEEP PEACE WITHIN ME
AND I CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO LIVE AUTHENTICALLY
DESPITE THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE."

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As a true friend would do, Yvonne has helped me grow emotionally and spiritually. We have been through some tough times but we have made it through by supporting each other. We celebrate our individual and family successes together.

When Yvonne suffered her stroke, I saw another side of her. I experienced a phenomenal woman of great courage, with no fear; trusting and believing against all odds that all would be well. She does not see problems, she sees challenges, and she believes with every challenge lies a great opportunity. Yvonne is a great inspiration to me and my family. I am truly blessed to have an awesome friend, sister and confidante like Yvonne. FRANCIE SHONIWA, FRIEND

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

YVONNE KGAME IS A PROFESSIONAL WITH TWENTY-EIGHT years of experience as a leader and senior executive in local and international print publishing and public broadcasting at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). Yvonne is also a teacher, chief examiner, mentor, inspirational speaker and researcher and is currently The Executive: Innovations and Editorial Manager of Local Content at the SABC.

During the period of South Africa's transition to democracy, Yvonne provided insightful leadership in educational broadcasting. The collective work of her and the team she led has been recognised through 150 international and local awards, and the development of strategic partnerships resulting in a number of co-productions. Among the most prestigious awards she has received are: the Peabody Award, the CBA Broadcasting Award for Outstanding Children's programmes, and four awards in Italy including the Grand Jury Prize. She was nominated for a South African Feather Award in her personal capacity. She received an award from Images and Voices of Hope, an international organisation focusing on International Dialogues for Thought Leaders in Media – Journalism.

Following her successful leadership in education broadcasting, Yvonne headed up the SABC's Content Hub, overseeing a broad spectrum of programming genres. At the apex of work in this role, she was overseeing the conceptualisation and broadcasting of more than 800 programmes. During this time her work was recognised through more than 80 local and international awards in just over two and a half years. Amongst these are: an Emmy Award of Recognition for Hosting the Semi-final round of the International Emmys; FEPACI (Pan African Federation of Filmmakers): a Recognition Award for services rendered. After her double stroke, Yvonne was appointed Executive Manager: Innovation and Editorial. In this role, she supports content houses across various media platforms which express, celebrate and affirm South African and African stories. Yvonne's passion for weaving and positioning the African tapestry in a global context represents her quest for making Africa's great stories widely known.

Yvonne's academic qualifications include a Master of Arts (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), a Materials Development Certificate (Thames Valley University, United Kingdom), Bachelor of Arts Hons (Wits University, South Africa, 1992), a Bachelor of Arts in Education (Honours) (Wits University), Bachelor of Arts with distinction in Education (UNISA, South Africa), a Senior Secondary Teachers Diploma (Soweto College). She has recently obtained a Certificate in Occupationally Directed Education & Training Development Practices – NQF 4 (Maccauvlei Learning Academy).

Yvonne has served as a board member of various international and national boards, including: International Public Television; Basel Forum; Sithengi Board (International Film and TV Festival); Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences; Oscar Selection Committee; Chowac (Christ Haven of Workers Adult Literacy Centre) and Chief Examiner at the IEB. She has recently been appointed Chair of the Board of the International Association of Human Values.

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"Every human being has a unique genius, our individual inner power and infinite wisdom is always with us. All we need do is to tap into it if we are to stay aware and fully embrace the call to dance to our inner rhythm and the rhythm of the universe to be free. Let it Be and so Be it."

YVONNE BUSISIWE KGAME

"As a spiritual healer my experience with Yvonne is unique. My view of Yvonne is that she has the ability to heal herself and others through her understanding and application of faith and divine love for mankind. She is selfless in all her actions, a true "guru". Yvonne has a gift to help others recognise their true talents. Her divine energy can be seen and felt by many. When speaking to an audience, she touches everyone's heart. One can see that Spirit talks through her and divine healing occurs. This beautiful soul came to me for healing and guidance, and through her spiritual nature unveiled healing and light in my family. Yvonne is a perfect example of an Earth Angel, channelling God's love, light and healing. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for her influence in our lives." FAEEZA FAKIR

INFINITE GRACE

A MIRACULOUS AWAKENING

INFINITE GRACE is a celebratory and inspiring story about a soul's awakening and a second chance at life. After surviving a double stroke caused by a very large Glomus Tumour, Yvonne Kgame, a driven, self-confessed workaholic in the pressurised world of broadcasting, pondered the universal questions: Who am I? Why am I here and how do I fulfill my life purpose?

No road map or GPS was required to navigate this second chance because from the moment she surrendered herself to the universe with the words, "Let it be", opportunities arose for deeper self-love, healing and living with purpose. A hidden hand of divine grace guided her through a series of illuminating realisations.

Deep self-reflection provided the light that led her to discover her truth. Encounters with medical doctors, holistic healers, masters, teachers and gurus brought wisdom and healing to Yvonne's life. This journey helped her to discover the 'PIN code' that gave her access to a heightened state of love and grace and a renewed commitment to serve.

Her determination to heal body, mind and spirit is a fearless expression of her choice to live and to do so with a deep sense of purpose.

Yvonne's profound experience will take you to the edge of your own moment of grace and bring you back, transformed and inspired.



YVONNE KGAME is a professional with twenty eight years of experience as a media leader, manager and specialist in local and international print publishing and public broadcasting. Her work and compassionate service arise from her life-long dedication as a teacher.

She has served on the boards of various international and local media organisations.

She is married to Peter Kgame and is mother to three adult sons. She and Peter live in Johannesburg, South Africa.

