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Sommario/riassunto	Royal Prayer may be a response to personal, natural or man-made disaster, an act of dedication or an expression of national celebration. From local origins thousands of years ago, it has expanded to encompass the exploration of earth and space, the development of nuclear theology and the challenges presented by quantum physics. The blessing of ships down the ages has attracted royal prayer for surprisingly practical reasons, from Nile reed boats to ocean-going

ballistic missile submarines. Unexpectedly, royal prayer has also helped to improve the standing of women in society; today it recognis

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