





Birthday

What was the main aim of B-day cards?

Why the people didn't celebrate their B-days in early years?

When and why were people able to celebrate their B-days?

Why we use candles on the B-day cake?

What is the best known B-day in the history?



History of Birthday



**Earliest history of birthday can
be traced before the rise of
Christianity where celebrations
began to ward off evil spirits!**

Development of Calendars

Early man did not know how to calculate dates so they were not able to pay attention to the anniversary of important events like birthdays. Gradually, human beings began to understand *lunar cycles* and they developed calendars

Early Records of Birthday Celebrations

Historians are certain that birthday celebrations are being held for quite sometimes but there are few records for the same. Documented descriptions of Birthday celebrations are available only for kings, high-ranking nobility and those who held high positions in the society. In the beginning common men and especially children were unable to celebrate the birthdays. Scholars believe that this difference existed



Many Christmas

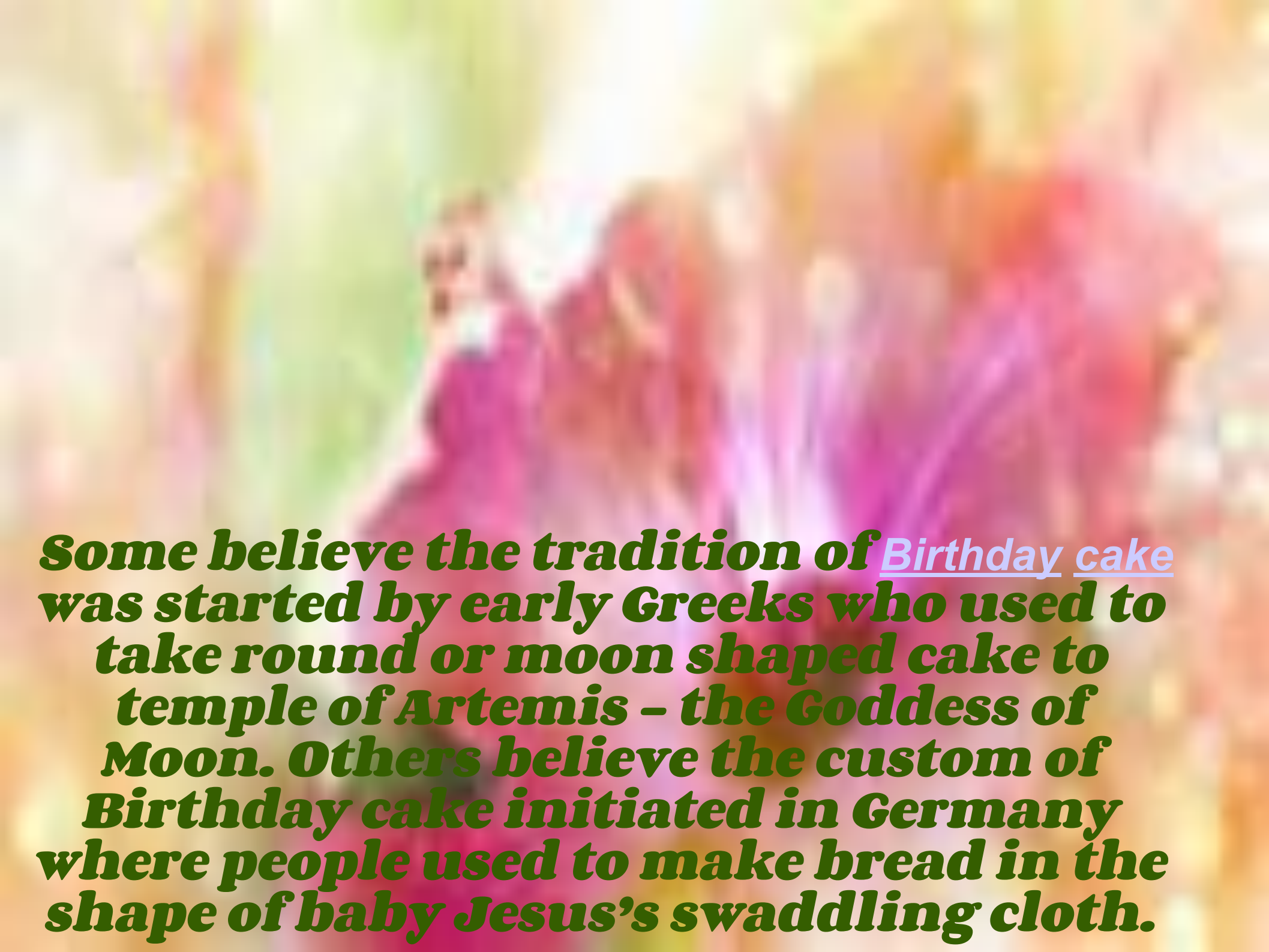
Best known birthday in the history is that of Jesus Christ. For nearly 2000 years since the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Christians have been honoring the day as Christmas.



*History of Popular Birthday Traditions
and Symbols*



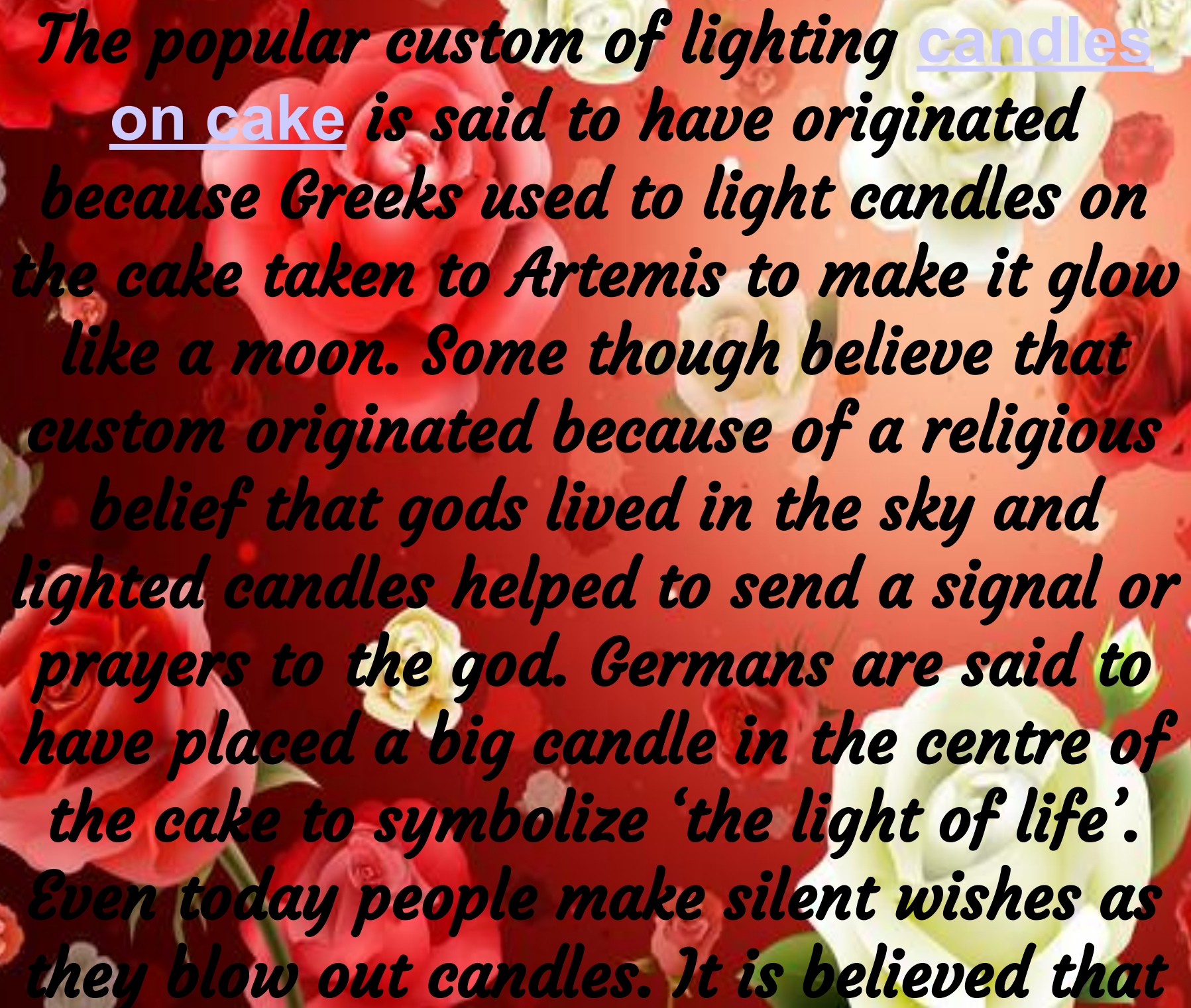
Birthdya cake



Some believe the tradition of Birthday cake was started by early Greeks who used to take round or moon shaped cake to temple of Artemis - the Goddess of Moon. Others believe the custom of Birthday cake initiated in Germany where people used to make bread in the shape of baby Jesus's swaddling cloth.

Happy Birthday!

candles on cake



The popular custom of lighting candles on cake is said to have originated because Greeks used to light candles on the cake taken to Artemis to make it glow like a moon. Some though believe that custom originated because of a religious belief that gods lived in the sky and lighted candles helped to send a signal or prayers to the god. Germans are said to have placed a big candle in the centre of the cake to symbolize 'the light of life'. Even today people make silent wishes as they blow out candles. It is believed that

Birthday Card History



Birthday Card History is said to be over a hundred years old. Though there is no record to tell us who send or received the first birthday card but it said the tradition of sending Birthday Cards began in England a century ago. In those time people used to personally greet a person on a birthday, but when a well-wisher was unable to do so he send a Birthday Card. Thus Birthday cards were more like an apology at that time.

History of Birthday Song

The very popular 'Happy Birthday to You' song has become an indispensable part of birthday celebrations across the world. Today, the song is over a hundred years old. It is still not certain who wrote the lyrics of the song 'Happy Birthday to You'.

It is considered to be a joint work of two American sisters, Mildred J. Hill, schoolteacher and Dr Patty Smith Hill who was a Principal in the same school. The song that was originally composed by two sisters was entitled '**Good Morning to All**' but bore the recognizable melody. The tune of the song was first published in 1893 in the book, 'Song Stories for the Kindergarten'. It credited Patty Hill for the lyrics and Mildred Hill for the music. Over the years the song became extremely popular in schools across US.

Popularity of the Birthday Song

*The addition of Birthday verse popularized the song and over the years 'Good Morning to All' verse composed by Hill sisters disappeared. The Birthday Song gained popularity in late 1930s when it was sung in 'As Thousands Cheer' - a Broadway Production. Famous Hollywood actress **Marilyn Monroe's** rendition to U.S. President John F. Kennedy in May **1962** is considered to be the most famous performances of 'Happy Birthday to You' song. Today, the Guinness Book of World Records recognizes 'Happy Birthday to You' as one of the three most popular songs in English language. The other two being 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.' The Birthday Song is popular all over the world and has been translated into dozens of languages. English version of the song is more popular and is sung even where English is not a primary language.*

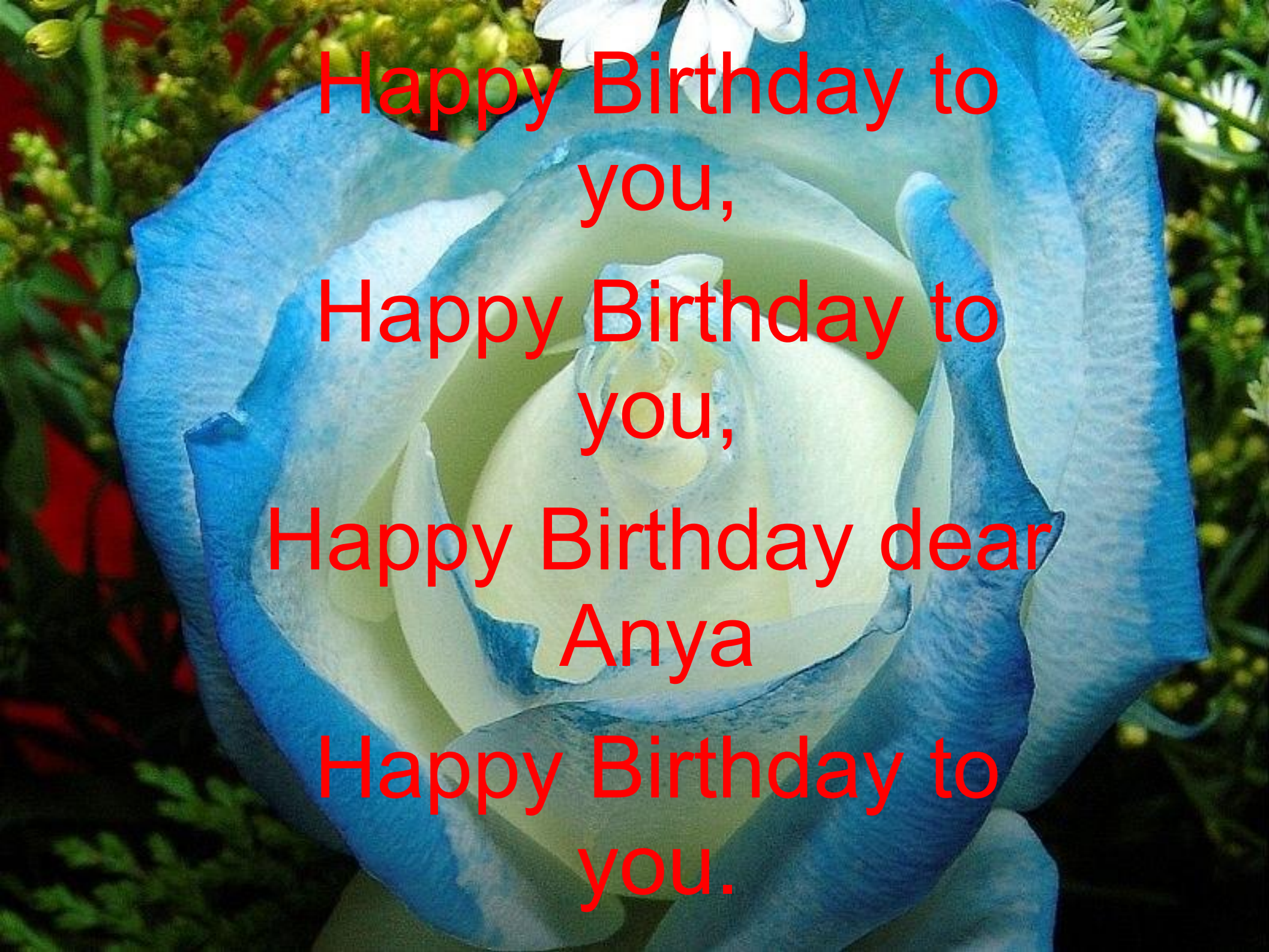
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Happy Birthday to
you,

Happy Birthday to
you,

Happy Birthday dear
Anya

Happy Birthday to
you.

