

New Year Reflection

THEY SAY “..THE OLDER YOU BECOME, THE WISER YOU BECOME..” No! I’m not sure about that, very questionable ; I’ve known certain elderly individuals with “their-years-behind-them” and all I could see in their character was anger, bitterness and unapproachability, as in, “don’t bother me, the world has let me down” ; then I’ve met others with many years of life and awful suffering behind them, and they see out their days serenely and peacefully ; Is it length of years that makes us into pillars of serenity with fulfilment written all over our face? It depends on how life has treated you, remembering that you only get out of something what you are willing to put into it ; In the Book of Wisdom it is written **THE VIRTUOUS MAN, THOUGH HE DIES BEFORE HIS TIME, WILL FIND REST. LENGTH OF DAYS IS NOT WHAT MAKES AGE HONOURABLE, NOR NUMBER OF YEARS THE TRUE MEASURE OF LIFE...**” Wis.4 ; 7.

So how do we determine the “true measure of life”? that depends really on what we pursue in the course of our years here on earth, and “being successful” is not synonymous with inner peace nor much less with happiness ; when I was growing up “happiness was a cigar called Hamlet”, thankfully we’ve moved on from there, though not much!!

What do you and I pursue? Or maybe we look up to someone as a role model, for example, young actors in training look up to the “A-Listers” of a former generation, such as, Robert de Niro, Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep etc.. yes!, they can look up to them for some sort of inspiration, but as actors-in-training, they will have to discover their own unique method of acting ; there is a film called “There will be Blood”, released in 2008, about a ruthless oil tycoon who will stop at nothing in order to get what he wants, more and more money ;

towards his declining years he has it made, he has become a billionaire but at a shocking cost to himself, to everyone close to him and to everything that is good around him ; He descends into a type of vicious madness, void of compassion and rotten-to-the-core...He had become a very wealthy man, but failed miserably to make something of himself ; what do you and I plan to make of ourselves as we move into 2021? How many more years of life do you think you'll have here in this world? who knows? Winston Churchill(1874 – 1965) lived to a ripe old age, 91, never did a day's exercise, smoked and drank all his life, temperance was not one of his virtues ;

Jesus Our Saviour taught about priorities in life, he told his disciples to seek first the Kingdom of God, then everything else would be taken care of **SET YOUR HEARTS ON HIS KINGDOM F I R S T, AND ON HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE OTHER THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL**

(st.Matthew 6 ; 33)In other words, the lord provides if we allow him to, he provides the means and the opportunities that we need in order to use our talents properly and get by, but only if we put him FIRST in our lives ; And unfortunately that's what goes wrong!! Many of us don't put God first in our lives, we think we do when all seems to be in our favour, no-one is to blame YET!!, then comes a spate of bad luck, bad health and bad management, and as usual it's everyone else's fault, but "not mine"

"oh dear! God has let me down" not so! On that note, why don't you and I enter into the new year with a better understanding of the Heavenly Provider and what exactly that means or here's a slogan you can learn off by heart **LET GO AND LET GOD** as in, let go of old resentments, let go of bitterness, let go of needless anxieties and fears, and allow in God Holy Spirit to occupy that FIRST place in your life, then enjoy that peace the world cannot give, this is within our reach even in the midst of a pandemic, along with so many changes and new inventions all over the planet ;

I'll conclude with a verse from Proverbs 30 7 – 9 **TWO THINGS I ASK OF YOU, O LORD ; DO NOT DENY THEM TO ME BEFORE I DIE ; REMOVE FAR FROM ME FALSEHOOD AND LYING ;GIVE ME NEITHER POVERTY NOR RICHES ; FEED ME WITH THE FOOD THAT I NEED, OR I SHALL BE FULL, AND DENY YOU AND SAY 'WHO IS THE LORD?' OR I SHALL BE POOR, AND STEAL, AND PROFANE THE NAME OF MY GOD**

Wishing you all a peaceful new year “...with all it's sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it's still a beautiful world, strive to be happy” from Desiderata...

Stay healthy regards,

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