

TIME

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall ever be with the Lord
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.*

To me time is a great enigma. As children, we have no conception of time. We do not understand that because the earth spins on its axis, the sun rises in the East, sets in the West and another day has passed. Nowadays, children are encouraged to measure the passage of time by the number of sleeps. I, myself, have very little memory of the first ten years of my life. Now that I am old, I find it difficult to remember what day it is. They pass so quickly; I rely on little reminders. When we were in our youth, we took little notice of time for we had the whole of our lives before us. We were impatient, we wanted to get on with it. It is only when we reach our middle years that we become aware of the passage of time; when our own children are now adults and we have grandchildren. We ask ourselves, where did all those years go? We tell ourselves that we are too young to have grandchildren. When we reach the age for retirement, our minds tell us we are still young and we are going to enjoy doing all the things we never had time to do before. However, before long our bodies tell us a different story.

A few years ago, a very dear friend who is a few years older than I am told me how he gets up early every morning and tries to make time slow down. I think that what he was trying to say was that we should live in the present moment; the past is just a memory and something we cannot change; the future does not yet exist. Jesus told us to stay awake, be ready for we know not the hour (*Matt 24:42*). I too get up early and try to have an hour of silence and reflection but it is difficult to avoid the distracting thoughts that come into my mind. During morning prayers, again, I find it hard to focus for my mind is inclined to wander and I have to keep praying "Lord, help me!" It is not easy to live in the present moment but I think it is important for I think that sometimes, without thinking, I say or do things that others may interpret in a different way to what was intended. They may take it in a negative way and feel offended when no offence was meant. Sometimes our actions can affect someone for a very long time. So, I try to think before I say or do anything.

Eternity is beyond our comprehension. God created time for humanity but to Him there is no time. He has no beginning and no end. The other day, another dear friend introduced me to a beautiful poem he had recently discovered. It is called, "When tomorrow starts without me," by David Romano. It is a poem of love from a person who has just died to a loved one(s) who is now grieving. In it the poet describes Heaven and how as he entered the gates of heaven, God greets him and smiles, telling him,

*"This is eternity,
And all I promised you.
Today your life on Earth has passed
But here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow,

But today will always last
And since each day's the same way,
There's no longing for the past."*

To film goers, this may sound like groundhog day, but the difference is that we will be living in the presence of God and He will be smiling at us. There will be no regrets, no sad memories, just perfect peace, complete happiness, and a joy that is beyond our imagination. I pray that I will one day be smiled upon and given pardon to enter through those gates.