

Atty. Domingo Lira of Minnesota and Batangas sent this series of postings to several e-groups as his version of a Christmas (and New Year's) message. He says that these spiritual readings are from "Fear Not the Night" by St. John of the Cross. We think that these readings ought to be read on the night before, and the evenings, after New Year (and Christmas). On the Internet, Atty. Lira has many monikers: JR, Pete III, Tikboy and Ninong. On behalf of our friends on the Internet and the staff, writers and columnists of the www.mabuhayradio.com, we join Atty. Lira in wishing you all a Peaceful, Prosperous and Happy New Year and again, a very Blessed-and-Merry Christmas Season. As the oft-quoted adage says, "Don't take Christ away from Christmas and from the New Year."

WE JOURNEY BY NIGHT.

"Our spiritual ascent is a journey by night. Faith is our only light in the hours after midnight

, when all we have come to depend on can no longer point the way.

"We move toward God not by understanding, not by drawing on and relying on what we know from experience gained in the clear light of day, not by what we feel or can imagine, but by belief ... by faith.

"For God's being exceeds the grasp of our intellect, our imagination, and all our faculties. Indeed it cannot be known in this life. Our best efforts are not enough. They leave us infinitely distant from God, from union with him.

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"No one has ever seen God. Nor ear heard, nor heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." "

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"Therefore, as long as we cling to what we can understand, imagine or even desire, especially as long as we depend on our own efforts, we will not reach a goal that transcends all that we are, all that we can achieve. We must move from knowing to unknowing from daylight to the night of faith".

MY DAY IS ENDING

My eyes do not see, nor do my ears hear.

"As this night descends remind me again that the soul that walks in love neither rests nor grows tired.

"Remind me too that the distance between us is not a failure to be overcome by effort. It is a difference that cannot be erased by what my mind can understand, my will effect, or my imagination create. Faith alone bridges the difference.

"It will always be night. No one has ever seen you, or any like you.

"Descend on my soul now like a river of peace to take away my uncertainties, my fear of the dark."

MY DAYS BEGIN

My eyes do not see, nor do my ears hear.

"All of us bear some small resemblance to God. We are, after all, made in God's image and likeness. But we are separated by an infinite difference. We cannot, however, great our desire, however graced, come to know God in the way that we know any other person, any other thing.

"Our senses, through which all our other knowledge comes, cannot convey a clear knowledge of God to our souls.

"'No one shall ever see me,' Moses was told, 'and remain alive.'"

"John says: 'No one has ever seen God, or anything like him.'"

"'To what have you been able to liken God? Or what image will you fashion like unto him?' Isaiah says.

"Our failure is not a failure of mere reverence in the face of the divine. It is a question of a difference that cannot be erased by what our minds can understand, our wills effect, and our imaginations create. Faith alone bridges the difference.

MY DAY IS ENDING

A better love is needed.

"As this night descends remind me again that the soul that walks in love neither rests nor grows tired.

"Here in this darkness let me taste a love great enough to replace all the loves I have cherished, for only then can I overcome their power over me. Kindle in me that other, better love which alone can bring to me satisfaction and strength, courage and constancy. Only then will my house be stilled, my desires laid to rest, my passions no longer at war with my spirit. Only then will I walk in freedom.

"Descend only my soul now like a river of peace to take away my uncertainties, my fear of the dark."

MY DAY IS ENDING

Restore what is mine.

"As this night descends remind me again that the soul that walks in love neither rests nor grows tired.

"But when my steps are driven by passion, my every attempt to practice virtue becomes a sad burden. I am, in truth, dying---tormented, weary, weak, and blind.

"Overturn, I pray, passion's hold on me. Turn my life back to you with single-mindedness. Renew my strength and energy. Restore my sight.

"Descend on my soul now like a river of peace to take away my uncertainties, my fear of the dark."

MY DAY BEGINS.

Restore what is mine.

"Passion is a thief. Not only does it brings nothing to our lives, but it robs us of whatever good we already possess.

"And if we do not bring it under control, it will eat us alive. It will kill off our relationship with God. In the end it will be the only thing that lives in our souls.

"If we do not kill it first, it will kill us.

"When we allow passion to distract us from God the attempt to practice virtue becomes a sad burden. We live dissatisfied with ourselves, unfeeling toward our neighbors, lazy in our relationship with God. Sapped of spiritual strength, we are ill.

"We are, in truth, dying--tormented, weary, weak and blind.

"On the other hand, if we overturn passion's grip on us, by turning our lives with single-mindedness to God, then peace will flower in us with newfound strength, renewed energy, and restored sight."

MY DAY ENDS.

We stumble in the dark when light is all around us.

"As this night descends remind me again that the soul that walks in love neither rests nor grows tired.

"I have almost convinced myself that with my intellect alone I can avoid the traps that passion sets before me, and that total blindness will never overtake my soul.

Written by Atty. Domingo Lira

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"But I grope my way through life stumbling along, walking in the light of a false day, when true light is around every corner.

"Descend on my soul now like a river of peace to take away my uncertainties, my fear of the dark."

MY DAY BEGINS.

We stumble in the dark when light is all around us.

"Passion surrendered blinds our souls because passion itself is blind.

"We become like moths dazzled by light flying headlong to our destruction.

"Passion is a strong light. When stared into it blinds us to the light beyond. That light is so strong within us that it darkens our intellect.

**"Passion is like dust in the eye of our souls, until it is removed we cannot see.
" 'If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall.'"**

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