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荒漠甘泉

急难中的凯歌

"你是叫我们经历重大急难的,

必使我们复活。"

(诗篇七一篇 20 节)

神是叫我们经历急难的。有时, 祂叫我们进入"地的深处"(赛四四 23),行走隐秘的道路,埋在死人中间; 虽然这样,神和我们中间的交通和联 合是没有一刻间断的。祂既叫我们进 入"深处",也必从"深处"带领我们 出来。



信徒啊,你不要对神怀疑!你不要说神已经弃绝你、忘记你了。你不要想祂不和你表同情。黑夜无论如何长,总要过去的;冬雪无论如何厚,总要融化的。 你当站住,你的工作不是徒然的。神必安慰你。那时,你就要高唱凯歌了。

"Though the rain may fall and the wind be blowing, And cold and chill is the wintry blast; Though the cloudy sky is still cloudier growing, And the dead leaves tell that the summer has passed;

"My face I hold to the stormy heaven, My heart is as calm as the summer sea, Glad to receive what my God had given, whate'er it be.

"When I feel the cold, I can say, 'He sends it,' And His winds blow blessing, I surely know; For I've never a want but that He attends it; And my heart beats warm, though the winds may blow." 雨或许还要下,风或许还要吹, 冬季的寒流锐如刀刺,天山的阴云层层密布, 落叶告诉我们,夏季已逝;

我仰脸对着暴风雨的天空, 我心如夏日平静海洋的晴和, 欣然接受神所赐的一切,不论境遇如何。

当我感觉寒冷时,还能说:"这是神所赐", 我确知祂的风带来祝福;我一无所求,祂却眷顾, 心感温暖的跳动,纵使风雨依然吹拂。 --十一月十九日《荒漠甘泉》

信实的神

美国受到次级按揭风暴影响,经济一蹶不振,全 球经济也受到拖累,特别是出口贸易大受打击。我任职 一间玩具贸易公司,主要出口玩具到美国;美国经济不 景,生意自然大受影响。今年以来,老板拖欠薪金达三 个月,令身为一家四口经济支柱的我倍受困扰。

火炼的试验

我无可奈何之下,只好问老板给予数千元,以解 燃眉之急。谁知对方反要给我签下预支薪金欠单,如此 颠倒是非,令人十分难受!我属于公司的开荒职员,多 年来忠心耿耿,没想到竟换来新一辈老板这样对待。然 而,我对公司仍然不离不弃,继续默默耕耘。

最近公司面对一宗生意纠纷,涉及美国有关儿童 玩具的安全条例。买方是日籍工程师,多次声称我方提 供的玩具,未能符合美国的安全标准,并拟采取法律行 动,追究到底。倘若对方胜诉,公司不单损失生意,甚 至要付上巨额赔款,结过必然倒闭。

老板吩咐我将玩具送检并跟进化验报告,但由于 公司长期拖欠化验费,惯常光顾的化验所不肯为我们化 验。无可奈何之下,我只好被逼另找一间化验所进行测 试。事后老板反问我为何舍旧取新,甚至说若化验报告 有何差池,我要负上全部责任。

全然交托主

欠薪日子已是十分难过,现在老板又将公司的存 亡压在我身上,其苦况实在难以形容!为此我多日失眠, 只感到没有出路。老板知道我是基督徒,就发出戏言: "你是信神的,不如找你的神帮忙吧!"到此绝境,可 谓无路可走,无计可施;老板一言,反而提醒我祷告全 能的神。为此我迫切祷告,全然交托,不再担心结果如 何,只管听凭主安排。感谢主,祷告之后,压力尽消, 再无挂虑。

之后发生奇妙的事情: 七月下旬, 买方来函表示 不再追究, 原因不明。我实在做梦也想不到会有这样的 结局, 只知主听祷告, 荣耀归神! 神是信实的, 必不叫 我们受试探过于所能受的; 在受试探的时候, 总要给我 们开一条出路, 叫我们能忍受得住(林前十13)。遇到 艰难时, 我们只管藉着祷告, 依靠这位信实的神, 祂必 为我们开路。(基)

一转载自"香港教会家讯"

诗歌简介 倚靠主永久膀臂

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

永生的神是你的居所, 祂永久的臂膀 在你以下。(申 33:27)

神的臂膀是"永久的"。人的双臂,即 使是因着爱而拥抱,终究也要疲乏困倦。人 生是短暂的,人的双臂也是有限的—无论用 它来表达爱、象征力量或是施行保护,都要 因着人亡而消失。但是神的膀臂是永恒、不 松开的,随着我们一生都在我们以下。

"在你以下",意即我们决不会沉下 去。有时我们说患难的海洋很深,好像洪水 一样要淹没我们。然而神永久臂膀在深渊以 下,我们不会从神的臂膀及其掌握中沉下 去。我们不是像一片树叶漂泊在波涛汹涌的 人生大海中,任凭风浪摆布,我们乃是在神 的保守中。只要我们倚靠祂,就永远不会沉 没在大水中。宇宙间没有任何一种力量能从 祂手中把我们夺去。无论是死,是生,是现 在的事,是将来的事,都不能使我们与神的 爱隔绝。

本诗是先有曲再有词。作曲者 Anthony J. Showalter (1858-1924)是一个成功的作家、 事业家,也是虔诚的信徒。某日同时收到两 位朋友的来信,同时间向他倾诉妻子死亡之 悲痛。Showalter 弟兄分别写信慰问他们,并 附上申 命记 33:27 之经文。当他寄出信后, 突然有一意念,深感这节经文可成为一首安 慰的诗歌,为何不做呢?于是立刻随着灵感 做了曲子并副歌歌词。他觉着需要有人来完 成歌词,于是请求好友 Elisha A. Hoffman 牧 师作词。这首"倚靠主永久膀臂"于是诞生, 1887 年首次出版公开问世。这首诗已译成多 国文字,曾使许多在试炼伤痛的人得着安 慰。Hoffman 牧师一生共写了 2000 首福音圣 诗。

本文取才于"岁首到年终"



今行这旅程,心中满平安, 倚靠在那永久膀臂中; 越行越光明,恩光照灿烂, 倚靠在那永久膀臂中。 有何我所惧?有何我所怕? 倚靠在那永久膀臂中; 与主永同居,平安无复加, 倚靠在那永久膀臂中。

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms; Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day Leaning on the everlasting arms. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms; I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

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Garden of Life

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Stilling Life's storms

F.B. Mayer

This Psalm contains five wonderful pictures of life. First,

we see the travellers who have lost their way (verses 4-9); next, prisoners and captives who sit in darkness (verses 10-16), then we see a sick-room (verses 17-22); next, a terrific storm at sea (verses 23-32); and finally, the lovely picture of a desert land



In all lives there are periods of tumult and storm. We are whirled about by angry billows, and it seems as though we shall never reach the harbour of peace and rest. Some give themselves up to such experiences as a fate which they cannot avoid, or attempt to drown their fears and dull their senses to suffering and danger. But faith cleaves its way through the murky mists and driving cloud-wrack, and establishes a sure connection with the throne of the Eternal Father. This is what the New Testament calls the anchorage of the soul, and however severe the storm that sweeps over the earth, the soul that shelters there is safe. 'Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.'

At this moment you may be passing thorough a storm of outward trouble. Wave after wave beats upon you, as one calamity is followed by another, until it seems as though the little barque of your life must be overwhelmed. Look up to God and cry to him. He sees you, and will not allow you to be engulfed.

Or you may be experiencing inward sorrow. Your affections have been misplaced; the one you love has deceived and failed you, and the sky is now dark and stormy. The one resort of the soul when it is hard driven, is to look up to him who holds the winds in his fist, the waters in the hollow of his hand, and who cannot forget or forsake those who cry to him.

> -Quoted from "Our Daily Walk" used by permission



Prayer: O God, we will praise thy Name for thy goodness to us, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men. May thy gentle voice hush our fears, and still life's storms into a great calm. Amen.