

Patience and Trust

(adapted by Chaplain Donnel from the words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

Above all, trust in the slow work of Love
- in the very slow work of healing and wholeness.

Trust the slow movement of your journey
from disorientation to clarity,
from darkness to light.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only time, insight, hope, and faith could say
what this new growth gradually forming within you will be.

Even if you are still in the dark, believe in your becoming.

Believe in your step towards this faint light, this hand leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.