

sunday solace - victorious suffering

"not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings,
because we know that suffering produces perseverance."
rom 5:3

physical force is stored in the bowels of the earth, in the coal mines, which came from the fiery heat that burned up great forests in ancient ages. so spiritual force is stored in the depths of our being, through the very pain which we cannot understand.

some day we shall find that the spoils we have won from our trials were just preparing us to become true "great hearts" like in the pilgrim's progress, and to lead our fellow pilgrims triumphantly through trial to the city of the King.

but let us never forget that the source of helping other people must be victorious suffering. the whining, murmuring pang never does anybody any good.

paul did not carry a cemetery with him, but a chorus of victorious praise. the harder the trial, the more he trusted and rejoiced, shouting from the very altar of sacrifice which he laid. he said, "but even if i am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, i am glad and rejoice with all of you." phil 2:17 Lord, help me this day to draw strength from all that comes to me!

He placed me in a little cage,
away from gardens fair;
but i must sing the sweetest songs

because He placed me there.

not beat my wings against the cage
if it's my Maker's will,
but raise my voice to heaven's gate
and sing the louder still!

we have been promised tribulation in this word but He has said He will never leave us or forsake us. "he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." 2 pet 1:4