

ONE DAY AT A TIME

AND THEN IT IS WINTER

YOU KNOW, TIME HAS A WAY OF MOVING QUICKLY AND CATCHING YOU UNAWARE OF THE PASSING YEARS. IT SEEMS JUST YESTERDAY THAT I WAS YOUNG, JUST MARRIED AND EMBARKING ON MY NEW LIFE. YET IN A WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE EONS AGO, AND I WONDER WHERE ALL THE YEARS WENT. I KNOW THAT I LIVED THEM ALL. I HAVE GLIMPSES OF HOW IT WAS BACK THEN AND OF ALL MY HOPES AND DREAMS.

BUT, HERE IT IS – THE “BACK NINE” OF MY LIFE AND IT CATCHES ME BY SURPRISE. HOW DID I GET HERE SO FAST? WHERE DID ALL THE YEARS GO AND WHERE DID MY YOUTH GO? I REMEMBER VIVIDLY SEEING OLDER PEOPLE THROUGH THE YEARS AND THINKING THAT THOSE OLDER PEOPLE WERE YEARS AWAY FROM ME AND THAT “I WAS ONLY ON THE FIRST HOLE” AND THE “BACK NINE” WAS SO FAR OFF THAT I COULD NOT FATHOM IT OR IMAGINE FULLY WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE.

BUT, HERE IT IS...MY FRIENDS ARE RETIRED AND GETTING GREY. THEY MOVE SLOWER AND I SEE AN OLDER PERSON NOW. SOME ARE IN BETTER AND SOME WORSE SHAPE THAN ME, BUT I SEE THE GREAT CHANGE. NOT LIKE THE ONES I REMEMBER WHO WERE YOUNG AND VIBRANT...BUT LIKE ME, THEIR AGE IS BEGINNING TO SHOW AND WE ARE NOW THOSE OLDER FOLKS THAT WE USED TO SEE AND NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BECOME.

AND SO, NOW I ENTER INTO THIS NEW SEASON OF MY LIFE UNPREPARED FOR ALL THE ACHES AND PAINS AND THE LOSS OF STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO GO AND DO THINGS THAT I WISH I HAD DONE BUT NEVER DID! IT SEEMS MY BIGGEST PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE POST-POLIO SYNDROME SINCE THE LATE 1980'S HAS AGED ME TWICE AS FAST AS THE AVERAGE PERSON. MY MOBILITY IS COMPLETELY SHOT. THANK THE LORD FOR MY SCOOTER. BUT AT LEAST I KNOW, THAT THOUGH I'M ON THE “BACK-NINE AND MY TIME IS SHORT, I KNOW FOR SURE, THAT WHEN IT'S OVER ON THIS EARTH...IT'S OVER. **A NEW ADVENTURE WILL BEGIN!**

SO, IF YOU'RE NOT ON THE BACK NINE YET...LET ME REMIND YOU, THAT IT WILL BE HERE FASTER THAN YOU THINK. LIFE IS A GIFT 2 U. **THE WAY U LIVE YOUR LIFE IS YOUR GIFT TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER. MAKE IT A FANTASTIC ONE.**

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LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING :

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO –ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS. GOING OUT IS GOOD. COMING HOME IS BETTER! –YOU FORGET NAMES..BUT IT'S OK BECAUSE OTHER PEOPLE FORGOT THEY EVEN KNEW YOU!!!–YOU REALIZE YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE REALLY GOOD AT ANYTHING... ESPECIALLY GOLF.

–THE THINGS YOU USED TO CARE TO DO, YOU NO LONGER CARE TO DO, BUT YOU REALLY DO CARE THAT YOU DON'T CARE TO DO THEM ANYMORE. –YOU SLEEP BETTER ON A LOUNGE CHAIR WITH THE TV BLARING THAN IN BED. IT'S CALLED “PRE-SLEEP”. –YOU MISS THE DAYS WHEN EVERYTHING WORKED WITH JUST AN “ON” AND “OFF” SWITCH.

–YOU TEND TO USE MORE 4 LETTER WORDS...”WHAT?”...”WHEN?”...???

–YOU NOTICE EVERYTHING IN STORES IS EXPENSIVE. –WHAT USED TO BE FRECKLES ARE NOW LIVER SPOTS. –EVERYBODY WHISPERS. –YOU HAVE 3 SIZES OF CLOTHES IN YOUR CLOSET –2 OF WHICH YOU WILL NEVER WEAR. –BUT OLD IS GOOD IN SOME THINGS: OLD SONGS, OLD MOVIES,

AND BEST OF ALL, **OLD FRIENDS!!! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER**

THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED. IT'S ONLY IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL SOMEBODY DOES IT. BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACCIDENTS OF NATURE, BUT BEAUTIFUL OLD PEOPLE ARE WORKS OF ART. AN IDEA IS A FEAT OF ASSOCIATION YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, BUT NOT EVERYTHING. TO KNOW ONE'S SELF IS WISDOM, BUT NOT TO KNOW ONE'S NEIGHBOR IS GENIUS. THERE IS NO CURE FOR BIRTH AND DEATH SAVE TO ENJOY THE INTERVAL.

IT IS ONLY BY BEING IN TROUBLE THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND HOW FAR FROM EASY IT IS TO BE THE MASTER OF ONE'S FEELINGS & THOUGHTS

SECOND THOUGHTS

LIVE AS IF YOU WERE LIVING A SECOND TIME, AND AS THOUGH YOU HAD ACTED WRONGLY THE FIRST TIME!

JACK