

For Reflection on the Road Ahead

Consider the following poem extracts.
What do they suggest about
the Presentation journey into the future?
What concerns you about the road ahead?
What advice would you give to those entering
leadership in a Presentation ministry?

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAR TO TRAVEL.

If you could see the journey whole,
you might never undertake it,
might never dare the first step
that propels you from the place you have known
toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:
that we see it only by stages
as it opens before us,
as it comes into our keeping,
step by single step.¹

ONCE YOU STEP OUT, YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF

how nothing could have made you
ready for this road
that it will take you from what you know
to what you cannot perceive except,
perhaps, in your dreaming
or as it gives a glimpse in prayer.²

WHEN YOUR STAR RISES DEEP WITHIN,

Trust yourself to its leading.
You will have light for your first steps.
This is Trasna, the crossing-place Choose!
This is Trasna, the crossing-place Come!

For we came to the place where there was no road,
no road beyond, only the leap of faith,
and that leap is a leap into darkness ...
yet we have known darkness,
and found it not without stars.³

1. Jan Richardson. Circle of Grace. Orlando: Wanton Gospeller. 2015. 67

2. Extract From Pilgrim: Poems by David Whyte ©2012 David Whyte.

3. Raphael Consedine pbvm. Songs of the Journey. Victoria: Presentation Sisters. 2015. 45.