

EVENING NEWS:

A Commentary by Mrs. Mildred Metzelaum on her 93rd Birthday



What, precisely, is happening to this planet? Are we being poisoned by our own manic ideas of “success?” I remember Father O’Sullivan, God bless his soul, telling me seventy years ago to never believe today’s politicians or the press. They merely chase sensational headlines like starving dogs. I believe basic values are what we need today - quiet virtues like patience, kindness, and honesty. They are much-needed anchors in the turbulent waters of our age. Across the horizon dark clouds are moving in. Most people don’t want to face the incoming storm. They’d rather swallow a metaphorical Mickey Finn to drift into a comfortable, compliant stupor. God help them all, for they refuse to help themselves!

Sam: *(pausing after reading the poem, then looking at his friends)* Perhaps Father O’Sullivan is right: we are heading towards some tough times.

Kris: *(crossing her arms restlessly, restraining herself from boredom)* I grant that. However, pessimism is not helpful, Sam. If all we do is dwell on darkness, we actually deepen it. Unwavering pessimism only deepens gloom. We need a path out of our malaise, and the courage to do what is right.

Terri: *(gazing at her friends, briefly noticing the swirls in her teacup)* It seems to me that a duality is required here. With one eye it is good, even vital, to critically question everything—questioning every polished promise and fabricated truth.

- T Newfields

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