

## ONE DAY AT A TIME

### AN OLD AGE PRAYER

**FORGIVE ME, LORD, MY FOLLY...MY EMPTY, SHAMEFUL LIFE...AND EVERY MISSTEP I HAVE MADE...ALONG THIS ROAD OF STRIFE...FORGIVE ME, LORD, AND HELP ME...ALL EVIL TO SUBDUE...JUST GIVE ME GRACE AND GUIDE MY STEPS...THAT I MAY FOLLOW YOU...SHOW ME THE FALLACY FROM WHICH...A FOOL MAKES HIS MISTAKE...SO I MAY GROW IN GOODNESS...AND IN WISDOM FOR YOUR SAKE...TEACH ME, OH LORD, TO BE A FRIEND...AND WALK THE KINDLY PATH...THAT I MAY ALWAYS BE SINCERE...AND GIVEN NOT TO WRATH...INSPIRE ME, PLEASE, TO GIVE MY BEST...IN EVERYTHING I DO...AND NEVER LET MY SPIRIT REST...UNTIL I SEE IT THROUGH...OH LORD, I'VE FAILED SO MANY TIMES...FOR WANT OF FAITH AND LIGHT...PLEASE HELP ME NOW TO START ANEW...WITH COURAGE HIGH AND BRIGHT...I KNOW MY PAST IS CROWDED...WITH MISTAKES OF EVERY SIZE...AND MANY OF THEM WERE THE ONES...I MADE WITH OPEN EYES...I SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE SENSE OF COURSE...TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FROM WRONG...PERHAPS MY MIND WAS LAZY...OR I THOUGHT THAT I WAS GOOD...WITHOUT REGARD TO ANYTHING...I COULD HAVE DONE OR SHOULD...BUT NOW I KNOW A LOT OF THINGS...I DID NOT REALIZE THEN...AND I AM SURE THAT I'LL NOT MAKE...THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN...OH LORD, HOWEVER GREAT MY SORROW NOW...OR ILL THE WIND THAT BLEW...I KNOW THAT THERE ARE YEARS AHEAD...WITH MANY THINGS TO DO...THE HOURS ARE NOT LONG ENOUGH...TO PONDER AND REGRET...FOR THERE ARE STRUGGLES TO BE FACED...AND PROBLEMS TO BE MET...HELP ME TO PUT MY PAST AWAY...FOR WHAT I HAVE TO DO...AND LET ME START ANOTHER DAY...AS THOUGH MY LIFE WERE NEW...LET ME FORGET THE YESTERYEARS...AND EVERY LITTLE PART...OF ALL THE TRAILS AND ALL THE TEARS...THEY OFFER TO MY HEART...I WANT TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE GONE...AND THEY WILL NOT RETURN...AND THEN I WANT TO CARRY ON...WHERE I MAY LIVE AND LEARN...BECAUSE WHATEVER I RECALL...WAS NEVER MEANT TO LAST...AND THERE CAN BE NO POINT AT ALL...TO LIVING IN THE PAST...I WANT TO PACK AND PUT AWAY...THE HOURS THAT ARE DONE...AND BRAVELY START ANOTHER DAY...BENEATH A BRIGHTER SUN...BUT OH, MY LORD, THESE OLD AGE DAYS...DRAG ON SO ENDLESSLY...PLEASE GUIDE AND STRENGTHEN ME... EVERY HOUR MULTIPLIES...THE SLOWNESS OF THE DAY...I MISS MY LOVES ONES TERRIBLE...AND EVERY NOW AND THEN...I CANNOT HELP IT IF I CRY...TO BE WITH THEM AGAIN...AND YET EACH NIGHT WHEN I LOOK UP...AND SEE THE STARRY SKY...I KNOW THAT THEY ARE WAITING, TOO...FOR TIME TO WANDER BY...BLESS THEM, OH LORD, WHOSE LOYALTY...HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME. **AMEN.****

AND NOW , DEAR LORD , I WISH TO SAY ...I THANK YOU FROM  
MY HEART ...FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS GRANTED ME ...OF WHICH  
I EARNED NO PART ...I KNOW THAT I DID NOT DESERVE ...SO  
MANY THINGS FROM YOU ...AND PROBABLY MY PRAYERS ...  
TOO HASTY AND TOO FEW ...BUT , LORD , HOWEVER POOR MY  
PAST ...IN RETROSPECT APPEARS ...PLEASE HELP ME LIVE A  
BETTER LIFE ...THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEARS ...HELP ME  
TO GIRD MYSELF ANEW ...AND KEEP MY COURAGE HIGH ...AND  
TO THE PATTERN OF THE PAST ...NOW BRIEFLY SAY GOODBYE ...  
HELP ME . OH LORD , TO STRONGER FAITH ...AND NOBLENESSE  
OF MIND ...LET ME GO FORWARD IN THE DAWN ...AND NEVER  
LOOK BEHIND ! ... **A M E N .**