



Wandering For God

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We Shall Not Pass This Way Again

No one knows who originally said or wrote it. Across the years it has been attributed to a variety of people—among them are Victor Hugo, George Eliot, William Penn and the Quaker missionary Stephen Grellet.

No one knows when it was said or in what context it was said, and it is only a guess as to how it came to take such a firm hold of the world's heart and mind. But regardless, it has taken hold and impelled untold numbers of people to be kinder and more considerate of others.

Undoubtedly it is an old saying, but it remains as fresh and vital today as ever:

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

King George V of England kept this saying in a frame on his writing desk. Dale Carnegie called it "one of the basic requirements for happiness in life."

It is a reminder to all of us that we must do what we can to help others, to lighten a burden or soften a grief whenever a need arises. "... for we shall not pass this way again."