



The Awakening Part 2

“Try not to resist the changes that come your way. Instead let life live through you. And do not worry that your life is turning upside down. How do you know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come?” Rumi

Rumi, a Persian poet, Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufi mystic, shared these powerful words of wisdom in the 13th Century. Yet, they still remain relevant today. How well we accept change, live life, and perceive reality are thoughts that are still worthy of consideration.

Less than one month ago, we were preparing for midterms and spring break. Many of us were multi-tasking in order to make the most of every instance, but in reality we were probably shortchanging the impact of what we did because we did not take the time to reflect upon the experiences. What did we miss by maximizing every opportunity? What did we sacrifice by controlling things? How much quality did we really squeeze into the quantity of our life?

No one could have predicted that this type of change would have happened to us, but it did. What appeared to be a “situation” for people on the other side of the world has quickly become a reality for us here at home. While the news of the pandemic has changed the way that we do things, it should not be our entire narrative. We must practice social distancing, but must not stop living life or searching for the “silver lining.”

Many of us are being moved out of our comfort zones and into new ways of thinking about and doing things. Many were involved in the yeoman’s task of getting students out of the residence halls, professors resourced with ZOOM, and staff situated with remote access in a short amount of time. Even now, some of us remain on site to secure our campus for that day when we return. In some way, everyone has played a role in making things happen—these are silver linings.

At the Opening Convocation, the University Choir sang, “Tshotsholoza,” which means to go forward together and our new President, Dr. George T. French, Jr., inspired us to embrace a sense of togetherness in all things. No one could have predicted this type of change but our working together is God ordained.

Beloved, better will come on the other side of this experience!

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