



Hope,
although
rooted in the
past and
acted out in
the present,
receives its
energy from
the future.

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(1939-2010)
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Perhaps surprisingly, time is a fluid thing. There are times when each second feels unbearable and other times when the years fly by with shocking speed. We often desire to learn from our history, and to live fully in our present.

Hope is shaped in large part by the future.

Hope builds on our past. Our past is an anthology of our abilities. Looking through the pages of our history, we are able to see our triumphs, our defeats, our hesitance and our courage. In all of this, we catalogue who we are, how we have come to be, what we want to bring forward with us to face our present and future days. Our past is our bank of how the holy was active, how friends accompanied us, and how broadly our individual resilience and adaptability reach.

Hope alters our present. It is in our present that we create the images of what might come and thereby fashion hope. In the present, a nourishing future story adjusts our experience of the current moment. It may support our endurance of difficulty; it may activate our delightful anticipation or our curious excitement. It may comfort us when the present isn't great or awful, but is frustratingly plain.

Hope is fed by the future. It is the future that draws us forward into our fullness. It pulls, it coaxes, it stirs us to wonder and to imagine. There is character to the future – beauty, unity, always some kind of possibility – and that character is the framework on which we build our unique vision of who we will be, of how we will embody love or justice or generosity or faithfulness. With strength from our past and grounding in the present, we can trust the tug of the future.

We can hope.

What is a lesson from my past I am using in my present? What characteristic of the future brings me solace?