

Exit Stage Right

Part 8 – Finishing Well

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, ...

“Medicine is ... good, but not when we are shaking our fists in God’s face and saying “No, I’m not going to die yet. I’m trusting technology to pull me through.” - John Dunlop MD

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2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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“When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.” - Samuel Johnson

⁶ You take over. I’m about to die, (The Message)

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Departure - “Strike the tent”

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.

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Departure – “Sail away”

Gone From My Sight by Henry Van Dyke

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

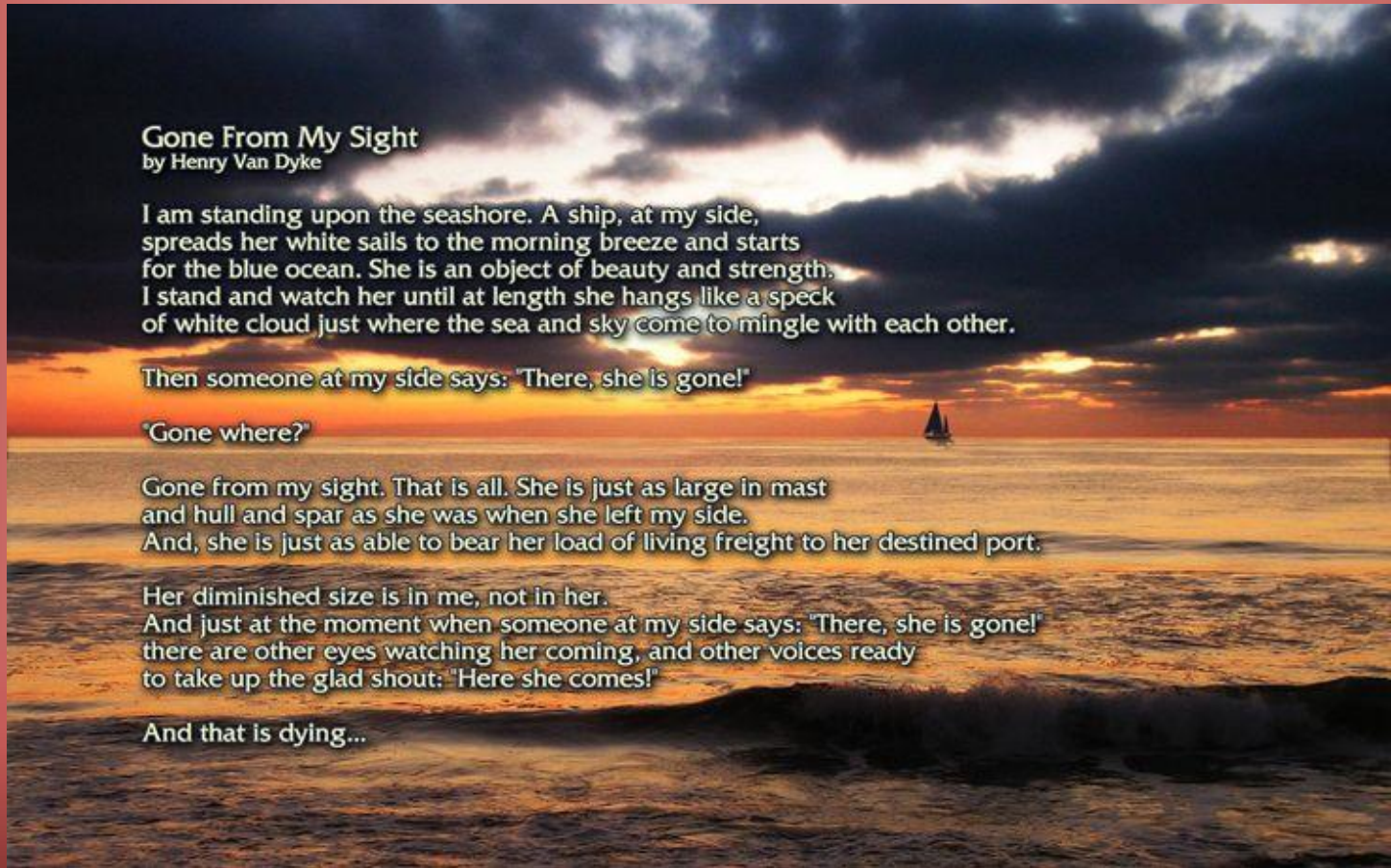
Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast
and hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her.
And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready
to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...



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Departure – “Unyoke”

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

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Its better to wear out than to
rust out.

~ Richard Cumberland

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“Most men don’t die of old age, they die of retirement.” - Ralph Winter, “The Retirement Booby Trap”

⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.