

# Life Goes On

by Howard Thurman

During these turbulent times we must remind ourselves repeatedly that life goes on.

This we are apt to forget.

The wisdom of life transcends our wisdoms;  
the purpose of life outlasts our purposes;  
the process of life cushions our processes.

The mass attack of disillusion and despair, distilled out of the collapse of hope,  
has so invaded our thoughts that what we know to be true and valid seems unreal  
and ephemeral.

There seems to be little energy left for aught but futility.

This is the great deception.

By it whole peoples have gone down to oblivion without the will to affirm the great and  
permanent strength of the clean and the commonplace.

Let us not be deceived.

It is just as important as ever to attend to the little graces by which the dignity of our  
lives is maintained and sustained.

Birds still sing;

the stars continue to cast their gentle gleam over the desolation of the battlefields,  
and the heart is still inspired by the kind word and the gracious deed.

There is no need to fear evil.

There is every need to understand what it does,  
how it operates in the world,  
what it draws upon to sustain itself.

We must not shrink from the knowledge of the evilness of evil.

Over and over we must know that the real target of evil is not destruction of the body,  
the reduction to rubble of cities;

The real target of evil is to corrupt the spirit of man and to give his soul the contagion of  
inner disintegration.

When this happens, there is nothing left,  
the very citadel of man is captured and laid waste.

Therefore the evil in the world around us must not be allowed to move from without to  
within.

This would be to be overcome by evil.

To drink in the beauty that is within reach,  
to clothe one's life with simple deeds of kindness,  
to keep alive a sensitiveness to the movement of the spirit of God  
in the quietness of the human heart and in the workings of the human mind—  
this is as always the ultimate answer to the great deception.