

## *55. Slow train coming*



Standing on a platform waiting for the signal to fall, announcing the imminent arrival of the train and with it the advent of a loved one... so much anticipation wells up inside that it is like an ache. It reminds one of childhood, with endless days stretching out until December 25<sup>th</sup> arrives with all its delight and fanfare. Counting down till Christmas...

Waiting

He loves me, he loves me not....I look for the hundredth time up the tracks willing the arrival.

Waiting, Hoping, Expecting

What is it that arrests me, his smile or his reassuring arm about me, or is it the pleasant symmetry of his face? No thought of my students now, just a heartfelt prayer for a reunion. I spend my life waiting, it seems. Not just on platforms like this, but for the 3.30 pm bell on Fridays signaling a luxurious weekend opening out before me- with no bells to mark out my day and no wake-up alarms. I wait for exam results, for students to master tasks and basic skills. I wait for end of term vacations, and an end to marking exams and writing endless report card comments.

Where is that slow train, has something gone wrong? Doubt is the caboose for the front engine of faith. I have plenty of life experience of the train bringing nothing but disappointment, and resenting the other who gets the accolade of success I so wanted.

Waiting is not unlike faith. Believing that in the absence, something good will arrive—someone you cherish will alight and embrace you, dispelling doubt and cynicism.

In Narnia the creatures awaited the arrival of Aslan despite patently clear evidence that he was not in the kingdom. Then covert rumours get to be whispered in guarded conversations, that he is on the edge of the border of the territory and heading inland. But it's still midwinter and there isn't anything to go on but vague rumours. Waiting for daylight to break the dark night's grip, a slither of light on the horizon to reward the vigil...

The signals fall, the train is coming very soon.

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

**Hebrew 11:1**

*I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." **Matthew 17:20***

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*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. **1 Corinthians 16:13***

*We live by faith, not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7***

*Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. **Hebrew 11:6***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWXceHe4s6A>

Bob Dylan's famous song