

## 93. Tears of Poets

A capable young poet was subject to the following lines, on the occasion of his untimely death due to a profligate lifestyle. W.H. Auden wrote them

*God may reduce you  
on Judgment Day  
To tears of shame,  
reciting by heart  
The poems you would  
have written, had  
Your life been good.*



You and I must not die with some of our masterpieces still within our heart, germinating but never seeing expression. You may be called to go overseas and write a poem of living by serving in schools there where the need is great. Or you God may hope to generate money from the business enterprise He is enabling you to start which will drive forward ministries by your significant financial underwriting. Perhaps there is a series of poems, artworks or musical compositions you are destined to deliver into this world. There are people for you to meet and impact, projects with your name on them, but fear and inertia hold you back, anchored to your more predictable and safe status quo.

Jonah had the insight and revelation long before Auden, that “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs” (Jonah 2:8)

This young poet was besotted by his gift. We can become enamored with our intellect, creative capacities, ministry successes, sports prowess enterprise skill and the artworks we produce and forget who we are doing all this for, the Lord wants us to focus less on our craft, which can become an idol, and keep ourselves intimately connected to Him.

<http://audensociety.org/poems.html>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/w-h-auden>