



## XII

AT THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, ROBERT FROST FAMOUSLY WROTE,  
"TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I,  
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY."

AN ELOQUENT PHRASE THAT TOUCHES ON TIME,  
AND ABOUT HOW LIFE ULTIMATELY LEADS US ALL TO THE EXACT SAME POINT,  
TOWARDS THE SAME DESTINATION.

WHAT DEFINES THE JOURNEY HOWEVER, IS THE PATH THAT ONE TAKES  
AND THE CHOICES THAT ONE MAKES ALONG THE WAY.

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED BY IS OFTEN FILLED WITH  
LEVELS OF GREAT UNCERTAINTY AND WILD ADVENTURE.

THE VERY NATURE OF PAVING A WAY FORWARD  
INVOLVES HAVING TO FACE A STRUGGLE THAT ONE MUST ENDURE,  
AND IN DOING SO, SERVES AS THE VERY CATALYST OF ACCOMPLISHMENT  
AND THE VIRTUE OF GRATITUDE.

HAVING JUST COME TO TERMS OF SORTS,  
A LONG DECADE SINCE THE GREAT CITY WAS UNDER ATTACK,  
ONLY NOW TO WATCH THE GARDEN GET BATTERED BY THE SEA  
AND THE AWESOME POWER OF MOTHER EARTH.  
BUT IT'S THERE, DEEP WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF DESTRUCTION  
WHERE ONE WITNESSES...REBIRTH.

AND VISION,  
TO LOOK BEYOND WHAT IS PRESENT ONLY TO THE EYE, AND TO BEHOLD WHAT LAY AHEAD.  
THE ESSENCE OF A PERSON'S SOUL AND THE REALIZATION OF WILL...UNDETERRED.

THE 21ST CENTURY IS AN INFANT,  
AND WHATEVER ROAD LAY AHEAD FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME HAS YET TO BE PAVED.

FOR THE WORLD THAT WE WISH TO LIVE IN,  
WILL ULTIMATELY BE THE ONE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO CREATE TOGETHER.

AND IT WON'T BE DELIVERED BY THE HANDS OF A PRESIDENT  
OR BY SOME RULE OF KING OR QUEEN.

BUT RATHER,  
THE CHARACTER OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US  
AND OUR FAITH THAT OUR COLLECTIVE WILL AND PERSEVERANCE,  
WILL SERVE US WELL AND CARRY US THROUGH.

BUT AS FOR I,

*song*

"I SEE SKIES OF BLUE, CLOUDS OF WHITE, BRIGHT BLESSED DAYS, DARK SACRED NIGHTS."

AND I THINK TO MYSELF,

*pause*

THAT ONLY TIME WILL TELL.

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