

For Reflection on the Road Ahead

Consider the following poems.

What do they suggest about the Mercy journey into the future?

What concerns you about the road ahead?

What advice would you give
to those entering leadership in a Mercy ministry?

For Those Who Have Far to Travel.

If you could see the journey whole,
you might never undertake it,
might never dare the first step
that propels you from the place you have known
toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:
that we see it only by stages
as it opens before us,
as it comes into our keeping,
step by single step.

Extract from Jan Richardson. 2015. *Circle of Grace*. Orlando: Wanton Gospeller. 67.

Once you step out, you will see for yourself

how nothing could have made you
ready for this road
that it will take you from what you know
to what you cannot perceive except,
perhaps, in your dreaming
or as it gives a glimpse in prayer.

Extract from *Pilgrim: Poems by David Whyte* © 2012. David Whyte.

When your star rises deep within,

Trust yourself to its leading.
You will have light for your first steps.
This is Trasná, the crossing-place. Choose!
This is Trasná, the crossing-place. Come!

Extract from Raphael Consedine. pbvm. 2015. *Songs of the Journey*. Victoria: Presentation Sisters. 45.

For we came to the place where there was no road,
no road beyond, only the leap in faith,
and that leap is a leap into darkness ...
yet we have known darkness,
and found it not without stars.

Extract from <https://www.presentationistersnz.com/journey-into-presentation.html>

We will not close the Door of Mercy.

We will stand as keepers, attuned, disposed.
We will hold the door ajar
for the desperate and the disruptive, the stray, the strange,
the wounded wise and the child too soon old.

They are looking for the door,
waiting by the door, hoping for the door,
and we must, with them, and for them, keep faith.

We will not close the Door of Mercy.

Extract from Mary Wickham rsm. 2021. *Being the Bird*. 183.