

“From God we come and to God we return”¹

During the last phase of my multiple myeloma and two and half rounds of chemotherapy, I have reflected upon my life, my mission and my faith. My mind has repeated the words, “From God we come and to God we return,” over and over. These lines are similar to lines in the Torah and the Bible. Nothing is much different so long as you believe in the same one God. And I now believe I will return to God.

Many years ago, I saw my late wife Nina’s soul leave her body at the Northwestern Emergency Room, in a draped room where she diverted my attention away from her. I heard a strange sound, not so much a gasp but a rasp, and I turned around to see her body truly lifted out of the bed, almost by a foot. Her head tilted forward and backward and then her eyes closed and she fell back to the bed. I literally witnessed, in more emotional than physical terms, her soul leaving her body. This is a story that will be in my memoirs to express how God the Almighty gave me the time and tenacity to convey my life story to others, my life which was dedicated to the following three values represented by the following three quotes:

“If you see a wrong, you must right it:
with your hand if you can, or, with your words,
or with your stare, or with your heart
and that is the weakest of faith.”
—Prophet Mohammad

“If you want peace, work for justice.”
—Pope Paul IV

“The world rests on three pillars:
on truth, on justice and on peace.”
—Rabban Simeon ben Gamaliel

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I want to thank you all for the important part that each one of you have played in my life, from the personal connections that make life joyous, to the professional support that helped me to follow my life’s path, to try to make a difference for the betterment of humankind. I have been blessed countless times over to have such wonderful people in my life.

Cherif

¹ Qur’an, Al-Baqarah 2:156.