

Strange as it may seem, but I cannot help feeling sorry for the foolish Bridegrooms. Pushed out of the party because they had not prepared.

Then that sad request

“Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out”

Do this for me

No

Do it for yourself

You may be amazed to discover that one of the greatest challenges of my day is getting up in the morning. Radio four is telling me that there is little point anyway as we are all doomed. The football scores tell me the team I cannot go and see has lost again. What is more the womb like comfort of my warm bed is so good.

Often it is only the cry of an ageing bladder that forces the duvet back and the day begins.

But God is so good to me.

I find the energy to shower and prepare coffee. I deal with what I can affect, and cease to waste energy on contradicting the fool being interviewed. Even the football score is compensated by the hope of the next feature.

I got out of bed

Then God has blessed me

But no one could perform the act of emerging from between the sheets for me

I can only do that myself

No one can do it for me

Then that sad request

“Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out”

Do this for me

No

Do it for yourself

One of the greatest organisations of the modern era for me is alcoholics anonymous.

This is a fundamentally humble organisation

One which is dedicated to creating independence in its members.

Each meeting begins with the individuals who attend

Stating

that they are an alcoholic

From that point on progress can be made

Failures can be accepted

Struggles shared

Difficulty recognised

But only when the individual takes the personal responsibility of recognising that there is a problem

Miraculously from that point we can begin

But no one could perform the act of emerging from self-deception for me

I can only do that myself

No one can do it for me

Then that sad request

“Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out”

Do this for me

No

Do it for yourself

But oh the temptations

The family that facilitate the child who never leaves the house

The person that excuses the unacceptable for the sake of peace

The wife beaten that prefers to take the blame

The student who prefers low self-esteem, to the challenge of achievement.

The one who only follows the crowd

The one who says I can't, instead of I wont

Those who focus upon what they do not have, to excuse them from using what is there.

Those so afraid of failure, who are thus content to never try

Waiting Waiting Waiting

But no one could perform the act of emerging from denial

I can only do that myself

No one can do it for me

Then that sad request

“Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out”

Do this for me

No

Do it for yourself

Have the faith to get out of bed

Have the belief to be honest with yourself

Have the confidence to fill your own lamp with oil

Who knows what will happen in the wedding feast of life

Some things others cannot do for you

You are not asked to prepare the feast

You are asked to leave the excuses behind you

and be ready to enter