



Hoping in the Time of Corona

If hoping made it so, the world would be a different place. Yet, without hope, the world would also be a very different place. Hope drives our dreams to succeed. Hope inspires us to be better people. Hope reassures us that the world we live in will somehow, someday be different; and better.

As we are at the precipice of a new year in just a few days, traditionally hope is at the centerpiece of our new year's wishes and prayers. It would be easy to be discouraged by the daily news on our televisions. Tempting to turn the TV off; and carrying on as if there wasn't a care in the world. But we know that ignoring life is different than living a hopeful life. Ignoring life implies living in a "pretend world" rather than a hopeful world.

We wish that COVID was behind us. But understand it is still ahead of us. We wish things were back to normal. But we no longer know what "normal" is or what normal will become. We wish that the world was not as divided and that the problems we face were not so daunting. After all, who has the solution to climate change, scarcity of natural resources, access to quality healthcare and the list goes on.

Is it simply foolish or naïve to be hopeful? Not at all. Perhaps Charles Dickens said it best when he wrote, "*It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...*" Which pretty much seems to summarize every year. Every period of time has had its challenges. Some years more so than others. I believe, rightly or wrongly, that we are somewhere in the middle. In this great country of ours we still have much to feel optimistic and grateful for. Often when we complain, it is with the objective to kvetch for kvetching's sake. However, I would like to think that there is a part of us that complains in order to change things for the better. While complaining for complaining's sake is debilitating; when truly motivated by a desire to change life for the better it can be a first cousin to Hope. Hand in hand, the two can move our world, our country, and our lives to a better place.

I won't stop making new year's resolutions. No matter how many times they are left unfulfilled. No matter how many times they are broken by the start of February. For these resolutions are a reflection of my knowledge that I can and should make a difference. Ultimately, it is up to me to ensure that the new year ahead is truly new. In short, hope starts with me.