

TT 13 Day 18

I am indebted to Bridget and Ella for this; it's called The Dog's Prayer and I reproduce it not because I am a fan of Patience Strong but, rather, because I think some men (including my Guvnor) might benefit from its core message:

O, Lord of all creatures, grant that man, my master, may be as faithful to other men as I am to him.

Make him as loving towards his family and friends as I am loving to him. Grant that he may guard with honesty the good things with which Thou has endowed him as honestly as I guard his.

Give him, O Lord, a happy and ready smile, as happy and spontaneous as the wagging of my tail. Make him as ready to show gratitude as I am eager to lick his hand. Give him patience as great as mine when I await his return without complaining. Grant him my courage and my readiness to sacrifice all for him, even my own life. May he possess my youthful spirit and joy of thought.

O Lord of all creatures, as I am in truth only a dog, may my master always be truly a man.

Anon

I take issue with the penultimate line which contains the word 'only'. There is no such thing as 'only a dog' unless it is used as in

'the one and only Turbo....' Otherwise, I think it is quite good but when I read it out to the Guvnor, he put two fingers in his mouth and made a retching noise. He has a lot to learn about human/canine relationships, methinks. I like that last word; it is old-fashioned, even pedantic but comes from my learning all about Shakespeare at the Guvnor's knee. He is no expert but has read a few of his plays and even acted in one or two and he likes quoting from plays and sonnets. It was the Great Bard who coined the famous phrase the "dog will have his day", *Hamlet* (5.1.280). Another famous reference to dogs is found in *Julius Caesar* (3.1.274) – "Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war" and we might have to investigate these on another occasion as 'Dog of War' doesn't go well with some.

Back to the less erudite and to boost humans' confidence, this is more fun; it is the Jack Russell, who looks up at his owner who he has taken for granted for far too long and says:

I use my teeth, I try my paw; I whine a lot, I walk in circles, but nothing seems to work. Then with a twist of your wrist, you turn the doorknob – and that's when I finally realise you are a wizard.

The Guvnor was sent a card once upon a time that has a picture on the front split into four quarters. The first one has a man falling into a well; in the second the man is shouting at his dog "Lassie, get help; get help, Lassie;" in the third, Lassie is shown racing away to the nearest town; finally, and in the fourth, Lassie is seen lying on a psychiatrist's couch and she is saying, "He's never really understood me; he seems to think I am a human being."