

I Saw Myself

by

Randy C. Finch

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I saw myself 10 years from now
 eating breakfast with friends at Jack's.
His infectious laugh brought a smile
 as he related tales of travels
 to the east, the west, and in between
 with his wife of 40 years.
He was slowing down, he said,
 but was not yet dead,
 and wanted to wring every ounce of life
 from his failing body in the time that he had left.

I saw myself 20 years from now
 in the doctor's waiting room.
He walked rather slow
 but still had a slight spring in his step.
I saw the sparkle in his eyes
 when someone asked about his family.
He loved his wife of 50 years
 more now than ever before,
 and his son had made him proud
 having a family of his own.

I saw myself 30 years from now
 at the local KFC.
Although he walked with a cane and was slightly hunched,
 his face betrayed contentment.
He was pleasant to the cashier
 and even told a funny joke
 that made her laugh—and me as well.
His wife of many years clutched his arm
 as they slowly found their seats,
 and like youngsters began to talk and eat.

I saw myself 40 years from now
 at a local funeral home
 where my Dad lay peacefully at rest.
As friends and family passed by
 I looked into his somber eyes.
Beneath the lids were those baby blues
 once full of life and laughter.
I remembered my youth
 when he would hold me in his arms
 as my mother beamed and hugged us both.

I saw myself as I am today
 In my bathroom mirror this morn.
I wondered if my life would be as worthy
 as the men I'd seen, including my father.
I have been blessed with a loving wife
 and a good and upright son.
So I asked myself, "Have I expressed my love
 to those I love to an appropriate degree?"
Because we often take for granted
 the things that make life worth living.