

Tuesday 7/10 Noon

Deuteronomy 2:7

Surely the LORD your God has blessed you in all your undertakings; he knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.

I invite you to close your eyes. Envision that here, on this fourth day of the heroine's journey, you have emerged from a struggle. The dark woods—the dark night of the soul—is behind you. Ahead, the path may still have some challenges, but you know that you are up for them, you have acquired the skills you need. Picture yourself, heading down the path which is now well-lit and relatively safe, turning the corner back toward the heart of God. I will ring the bell when it's time to open your eyes.

At this stage of the journey, our heroine has come to terms with her strengths and limitations. She has faced challenges, and faced them down. She understands that, while the future always has unknowns, she is ready and equipped to face them. Our heroine brings herself fully to her world, her relationships with others and with God. She realizes that the world looks different, on this side of the woods. She has a sense of returning home to the heart of God.

“Returning” is a great Biblical theme. The Hebrews were set free from bondage, wandered, came home. They returned to Israel from two generations in exile in a foreign land. The prodigal son returned home after squandering his life and his father's inheritance, and was welcomed. Naomi returned as a widow to Bethlehem after her sojourn in Moab, bringing her widowed, foreign daughter-in-law with her. Mary Magdalene returned to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body with spices, only to find that he had been raised from the dead.

When one returns, things have always changed. The journey changes us; things are different. Always we begin again.

Gentle and loving God, I desire to be still and know that you are with me and within me. Grant me the wisdom to allow my soul to be quiet and confident, trusting that you are doing better things for me than I can ask or imagine.