



Waiting

The conscious attitude of expectancy and allowing life to unfold.

My whole being waits. *Psalm 130:5*



Photograph <http://nos.twinsnd.co/>

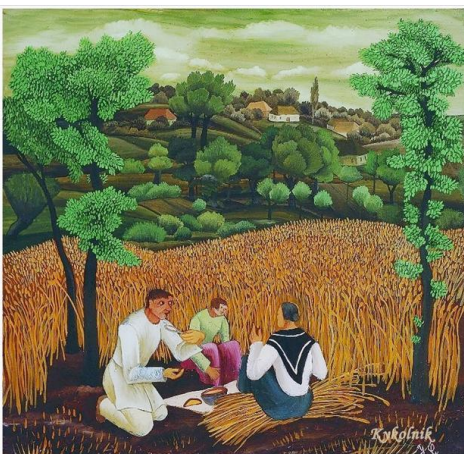
Questions/quotes for reflection:

Some questions waiting asks...

- Why wait?
- What are we waiting for?

'I was learning that being still and waiting in one place - going not forward but inward - was the sort of progress that really counted, the sort that gave us wings.' *Sue Monk Kidd*

- What is true progress for me, for us, for the world?



Harvester
by Ivan
Generalic,
wikiart.org

The crucible

In her book *When the Heart Waits* Sue Monk Kidd's primary metaphor for waiting is the cocoon, 'a crucible for spiritual transformation'.

Some consideration for our context, our setting in the world, the very thing that it is under our noses, within which we live, move and breath may be in order. In *The Stature of Waiting* W H Vanstone writes, 'to man as he waits the world discloses its power of meaning - discloses itself in its heights and depths, as wonder and terror, as blessing and threat.' Kidd's crucible. He adds that 'man must see his dignity not only in being a point of activity in the world but also in being a point of receptivity... also in his exposure to being done to'.

To plan, to predict, assess risks and dangers are our frequent daily tasks. To be at the centre, juggling and controlling, exercising dominion, is often our goal. Now what about waiting? Well we can choose to wait, but more often we *have* to wait. Either way it may be that such times of waiting in life are necessary. They hollow out a space in us, that we may become receptive, removing us from needing to stick out, to exert and forcefully propel ourselves forward into the day's and week's events. Waiting brings frustration but also some re-alignment of the ego and proportion to our world. The drive to be on the move, to give a sense of progression, can be an illusion, and is merely a blur of activity. Waiting asks 'What constitutes progress?' Waiting respects context, can allow a wider and deeper experience of life as something to receive, not something solely to make happen. Richard Rohr helpfully offers the phrase 'don't push the river'.

Sometimes waiting may be all that is needed. Sometimes waiting is needless and God invites us to take a step, to start. There is a crop ready. Discernment is needed but I do wonder if the work and gift within waiting may be more valuable than we realise.

Reading material:

When the heart waits, pp 35-39, *Sue Monk Kidd*

The stature of waiting, *W H Vanstone*