基督教文化产业 • 摘自《诗祭千秋》

越过沙洲

10月1日 丁尼生•英国桂冠诗人（1809-1892）

夕阳和夜星，向我发出清晰的呼唤！

不要有沙洲呜咽的悲声，

当我出海航远。

但潮水似睡眠的流动，

有太多的声响和浪花，

自无边无垠的深洋涌来

然后转而归家。

黄昏微光和暮钟，随着来的是黑暗！

不要有送别的哀痛，

当我登舟扬帆；

超越时间和空间的界限，

海浪将我载去悠悠，

希望见我的舵手面对面，

当我越过那限阻的沙洲。

1889年八十岁的丁尼生生病了，雇来一位护士陪伴照顾他。在他的谈话中，那基督徒护士说：“先生，您有很多诗作，但很少圣诗。我希望您写首诗，安慰其他病苦的人。”老诗人回想自己先前乘船经过索伦海峡的沙洲时，听到波浪冲击的呜咽声，似在悲泣，那是风暴将至的预报。当夜，就在病床上九写成了这首诗。丁尼生感激这位护士姐妹的提醒，并嘱咐用这首诗作为他的每本诗集的最后一首。表明基督徒的生命之舟，必胜过死亡，面见救主耶稣基督。

诗中把沙洲的呜咽用作丧葬的意喻。丁尼生用平静近于渴望的心情，想象越过死亡的关栅，也就同时越过官感的限制，在肉体之外得见神，面见那位一直在生命之舟上的舵手。（伯19:26； 林前 13:12）

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**Crossing the Bar**

1 October 2023 Alfred Tennyson, English Victorian poet laureate (1809-1892)

Sunset and evening star,

And one clear call for me!

And may there be no moaning of the bar,

When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,

Too full for sound and foam,

When that which drew from out the boundless deep

turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,

And after that the dark!

And may there be no sadness or farewell,

When I embark;

For tho’ from out our borne of Time and Place

The flood may bear me far,

I hope to see my Pilot face to face

when I have crossed the bar

Alfred Tennyson wrote a great deal of poetry. The definitive edition of his Poems stretches to three large volumes. ‘Crossing the Bar’ is a meditation on death, written when he was in old age to encourage those facing death. Tennyson later commented: ‘The Pilot has been on board all the while, but in the dark I have not seen him.’ As 1Corinthians 13:12: ‘*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known*.’ At the end of the journey of life, we will see the sovereign Lord responsible for seeing His own through the voyage of life face-to-face in heaven!