The Road of Life

Life: an ever changing kaleidoscope that brings some of the happiest days as well as some of the darkest. Is there more to this life than this continuous tug-of-war between our everyday struggles and the desire for happiness? The two go hand in hand. We cannot have happiness without some struggle, yet we are not destined to struggle all our lives. Struggling allows us to be truly grateful for the times of happiness we are blessed with. The poem “Uphill” by Christina Rossetti, shows that through the times of hardship, there is always something to look forward to in the end. There is comfort in knowing that in this journey through life, you won’t be fighting your battles alone, peace and rest will come in time, and there is a reward waiting for those who are willing to seek it.

In times of struggle, we ask ourselves, “Is life always going to be this tough?” The answer is simply, yes. Dodging times of hardship is simply inevitable. In “Uphill,” Rossetti speaks of life’s long journey as though from experience. “Does the road wind uphill all the way? / Yes, to the very end. / Will the day’s journey take the whole long day? / From morn to night, my friend” (Rossetti, ll. 1-4). Throughout your entire life, you will be faced with challenges that test your strengths and weaknesses. Life is a never ending battle between the problems we face every day and the desire to live a content, peaceful life. But, let it be known, that every obstacle you face, every challenge you overcome, will make way for a time of clarity in your life. Your struggles help define who you are. Our strength comes from the battles we’ve fought and how
we choose to deal with them. Where there is no struggle, there is no strength. Our struggles make
us stronger, wiser, and more determined than ever. Without the hard times, we would not
appreciate the good times for what they are worth. But when it is all said and done, it is good to
know that you will have others to share the experience with and your efforts will not go
unnoticed.

In hard times, though we may feel alone, there is always someone there to hold our hand
on this journey called life. Rossetti writes, “Shall I meet other wayfarers at night? / Those who
have gone before. / Then must I knock, or call when just in sight? / They will not keep you
standing at the door” (Rossetti, ll. 9-12). No matter what situation we are going through, there is
always someone willing to walk with you, help you through, and be there for you, no matter the
outcome. In your lifetime, you will come across numerous people who have overcome these
same obstacles you are facing now. They are proof that these battles are conquerable and you can
come out standing victoriously. You are never alone, even on the darkest of days; there is always
someone there to help guide you. The Bible says, “Be strong and courageous… for the Lord your
God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:16).

Though it may seem that life is a constant climb, there are times when it’s best to take a
step back from everything and let life take its course. “Uphill” assures us that there will always
be a time when the struggles come to an end and everything is calm, even if it’s just for a little
while. “But is there for the night a resting-place? / A roof for when the slow dark hours begin. / May not the darkness hide it from my face? / You cannot miss that inn” (Rossetti, ll. 5-8). This
goes to show that no one battle lasts forever. Life isn’t as cruel as we make it out to be; it must
have some sympathy for us. There will come a time when all adversities disappear, if only for a
moment, and life will seem a bit easier to manage.
Regardless of the struggles you have faced, each and every one will be counted for in the end. There will be a reward for those who have gone through their journey, choosing to make the best of every situation. There is always something positive to take from every hard time in your life. “Uphill” enlightens us that if you seek the reward on your journey, you will find it. “Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak? / Of labor you shall find the sum. / Will there be beds for me and all who seek? / Yea, beds for all who come” (Rossetti, ll. 13-16). Your efforts in this life will not go unnoticed. No matter the situation, trust that every struggle in your life will be worth it in the end. The Bible says, “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven…” (Matthew 5:12). So, keep your eye on the reward that comes at the end of your struggles. It will surely pay off.

Christina Rossetti’s poem “Uphill” assures us that we are not alone in the struggles we face every day. There will always be someone there to help guide our way through our darkest times. But no matter how long the darkness lasts, rest will come in time, to give you a moment of clarity in a life that seems like it is moving way too fast. Regardless of whether you are in a time of struggle or a time of peace, the reward you get for going through this journey as best you can, will be worth it. There will come a time when the struggling seizes; you just have to keep your attention focused on the reward instead of these moments of hardship. There are many bumps in the road of life; all that matters is whether you choose to face these bumps head on or swerve around the problem.
Works Cited
