

Thought for the day – Friday 3rd March 2023

By Maggie Marshall

Faith

Chapter 3 from the Autobiographical life story of Jason Arday. Born in 1985 in and grew up in a council estate in Clapham, he was appointed Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Cambridge and became the youngest black professor appointed at Cambridge.

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection changed the world and is the essence of Christian hope. But he was having some serious second thoughts in the Garden of Gethsemane. He cried out in existential agony to God: 'My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from me. Yet not what I want, what you want'. He afraid of what he is about to face, but he submits his will to a bigger plan, a bigger picture. Having hope in a bigger picture is a powerful thing. But it is only as powerful as the faith, religious or otherwise, that underpins it.

My own outlook on life has very much been shaped by a belief that a greater power has created my hopes, dreams, fears and aspirations, and brought them all to fruition. For me personally, hope has been a strong tenet in my life, particularly when I think about how I navigate difficulty. My faith very much guides me in the mantra that no two days are the same and that hope can always be found in a new day.

As with any human being who walks in faith, there have been times when I have questioned the presence of God, particularly in darker moments when challenges have seemed insurmountable. Even Jesus had these moments. On the cross, he cried: ' My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'. I am continuously reminded that the fact that I am still here, and able to see a new dawn, is testament enough that God is omnipresent in everything that I do. And I knew that giving something back was also part of the plan.

The rest of his autobiography can be read [here](#).