

THE END

Dear reader, if you had the patience to follow me, this far, I thank you. It was a real treat for me to listen to those echoes of my past life. Some say that if they had to do it again, they would do very much as they did but I would not dare say that much. If I had known what I know now, it would be a different story. That is what I mean.

I never enjoyed people and life as I do now because I presume I know more and understand better. Why do I appreciate people and life better now? Maybe it is because I don't have to worry about the future; perhaps it is because I have learned.

As a rule it seems that we are weak but not malicious, nervous but not cruel, we may be short on charity but we do not enjoy the sufferings of others. As I grow old I find more of my defects and weakness, more of the virtues of those I live with. Some may call that wisdom but I would prefer to call it experience. I had my share of fun, thank God. I have known suffering and I thank God for that too. I have learned that the main cause of my troubles was myself. I have learned that all good people know suffering and I think that everybody does.

I think that virtue is not the recipe to avoid trouble but the best way to understand it and make it profitable. When we face a challenge and find the answer, we grow and learn. When we take the easy way, we miss that and as they say: "We do not mature." Some say our generation is not mature, could it be that we are too comfortable? Prosperity is fatal to people and history seems to prove it. Those who run and walk fall sometimes but those who crawl do not accomplish much.

I thank God for my life, my family, my friends, my Church and my country. I thank God for those who have come before us and built the prosperity and civilization we enjoy. Seventy years of life do not seem much after it is passed and sincerely, I feel like the old priest who was dying and a friend was telling him that after all the good he had done, he should not worry about his salvation. "Well, said the dying man, as for the good I have done if the Lord does not mention it, I won't". I know that I was not always up to par but that is water over the dam now. And the book of my life is not closed yet.

If I was not a good boy and a good man, I can be a good old man and I know better now than I did then. God bless and keep you.