

## **Patient Trust**

Above all, trust in the slow work of God  
We are quite naturally impatient in everything  
To reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip to the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way to something  
Unknown, something new.

And yet it is in the law of all progress  
That it is made by passing through  
Some stages of instability-  
And it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;  
Your ideas mature gradually- let them grow,  
let them shape themselves without due haste.  
Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(That is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own goodwill)  
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.

*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ, found in "Hearts on Fire", Praying with Jesuits*