Battle at River Sars

KT Woo, FAMS, FRACP

Then do not despair
But let the seasons
Bind you to one another,
As you sit and watch the river,
And when you see
The last grains of sand
Filtering through the hourglass,
Do not withdraw your fingers
And cry in grief,
But gain strength in the knowledge
That this deluge
Will soon come to pass.

Then let the teardrops that flow
Be the moment of our cleansing,
Dispel this unholy fear,
Inspire us with the new fire,
As we share every sorrow
Grief and joy,
An abiding kinship
Steeped in compassion
Amongst our fellowmen.

Let us fight with armour, fully protective
Clothed in battle array
Strive, soldier on, conquer this trepidation
Despite fallen colleagues,
That searing pain, anguish and remorse,
Now is not the time to grief
We must march on
For the elusive beast awaits us.

So that as we march by the banks
And watch the river,
We know that no matter
How much its waters
Have flowed by us,
We would always remain the same
Steadfast and steady,
Singing a song of courage
Chanting the sacred mantra,
Protect, detect
Isolate and contain,
For the waters of the River Sars
Would not have touched us.

1 Department of Renal Medicine
Singapore General Hospital, Singapore
Address for Correspondence: Professor Woo Keng Thye, Department of Renal Medicine, Singapore General Hospital, Outram Road, Singapore 169608.