**Endings**

**Good things sometimes end abruptly, without any advance notice -- but so do bad things. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**When Paul Waner, former Pittsburgh Pirate outfielder, was asked how he knew when it was time to quit baseball, he replied, “Well, as you get older, you slow down and the infielders back up because they’ve got more time to throw you out at first. At the same time you lose a little power, so the outfielders move in, since you’re not hitting the ball so far. When they can shake hands, you’ve had it.” *(Eagle Magazine)***

**I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me – they’re cramming for their final exam. *(George Carlin, in the Guam Daily Post)***

**The dark moment the caterpillar calls the end of the world is the sun-filled moment the butterfly calls the beginning. (Bits & Pieces)**

**The end of things is often foretold in their origins: It is remarkable how often the origin of things is tied to the very same phenomena that ultimately lead to their demise – a fact that is especially evident when we ponder cosmic endings, from the end of the Earth to the end of the universe. For instance, planetary scientists increasingly suspect that comets (frozen balls of dust and ice) and ice-laden meteorites crashing to the primordial Earth probably provided most of the planet’s water – and perhaps much of the organic material – necessary for life. Organic molecules have been detected in comets such as the Hale-Bopp, and, in a recent study, researchers simulated those cosmic crash landings by using a gas gun to fire metal projectiles at 16,000 miles per hour into blocks of ice containing some of the same chemicals that make up comets. The shock wave and heat generated by the impact created molecules that formed amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. *(Lawrence Krauss, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Sadness, fear, frustration or any troubling feeling cannot last. Nature doesn’t create a storm that never ends. *(Dr. Wayne Dyer)***

**Nothing is dead. Men feign themselves dead, endure funerals and mournful obituaries, and there they stand, looking out the window, sound and well in some new disguise. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Every ending is a new beginning. Once we get the feel of a continuity of life and realize there is no death, then we are able to overcome the fear of death. The resurrection personified in Jesus’ experience helps us to realize that when this experience on earth is ended, there is in reality no end at all. Just as a high note of an octave is the low note of the next octave, so is the beginning of a new experience. *(Jim Ockley)***

**Johnny Unitas, former professional quarterback, explains why he decided to stop playing football: “I could have played two or three more years. All I needed was a leg transplant.” *(Joe Falls, in Detroit Free Press)***

**Harry Potter "is done now," author J. K. Rowling says. Her two-part stage play Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, which portrays the erstwhile child wizard as a 37-year-old dad struggling to communicate with his teenage son, premiered in London last week amid great excitement. The play's script immediately became a best-selling book. But Rowling, 51, said she was not tempted to write more about Harry as an adult. "I'm thrilled to see it realized so beautifully," she said, "but no, Harry is done now." *(The Week magazine, August 12, 2016)***

**Great is the art of beginning, but greater the art is of ending. (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)**

**22: Percent of Americans under 30 who report e-mailing, texting or posting a message online to end a relationship. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**Science has found that nothing can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation! How, if God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of His universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that He applies it also to the masterpiece of his creation -- the human soul? I think it does. And everything science has taught me -- and continues to teach me -- strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace. (Wernher von Braun)**

**76: Percentage of species wiped out by the asteroid or comet impact that killed off the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**Still at the end of every hard day / People find some reason to believe. (Bruce Springsteen) 952517**

**Man was made at the end of the week’s work when God was tired. *(Mark Twain)***

**If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story. *(Orson Welles)***

**The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning. *(Ivy Baker Priest)***

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