

# Oye, I'm turning 70...

## The Glories of becoming *Older*

→ *Old Age* (with God's help) can still retain health and vigor

Although **Moses** was **one hundred and twenty years old** when he died,  
his **eye was not *dim***, nor his **vigor abated**.  
(Deuteronomy 34:7)

Do you **not** know? Have you **not** heard?  
The **Everlasting God, the LORD**, the **Creator** of the ends of the earth  
**does not** become **weary** or **tired**.  
His **understanding** is **inscrutable**.

He gives strength to the **weary**,  
And to *him who lacks might* He increases power.

Though **youths** grow **weary** and **tired**,  
and **vigorous young men** **stumble** badly,

Yet those who **wait for the LORD**  
will gain new strength;  
they will **mount up** with wings like **eagles**,

They will **run** and **not get tired**,  
They will **walk** and **not become weary**.  
(Isaiah 40:28-31)

→ With *Old Age* comes grey hair, which is to be esteemed

A **gray head** is a **crown of glory**;  
It is found in the **way of righteousness**.  
(Proverbs 16:21)

The **glory** of **young men** is their **strength**,  
and the **honor** of old men is their gray hair.  
(Proverbs 20:29)

→ With *Old Age* comes wisdom...but not always

“Wisdom is with aged men,  
With long life is **understanding**. (Job 12:12)

So **Elihu** the son of **Barachel** the **Buzite** spoke out and said,

"I am **young** in years and **you (Job) are old**;  
therefore I was **shy** and **afraid** to tell you what **I think**.

"I thought **age** should **speak**,  
and **increased years** should teach **wisdom**.

"But it is a **spirit** in man,  
and the **breath of the Almighty gives** them **understanding**.

"The **abundant in years may not be wise**,  
**Nor** may **elders understand justice**. (Job 32:6-9)

Quote→ "**Wisdom** doesn't necessarily **come** with **age**.  
Sometimes, **age** just shows up **all by itself**." -Tom Wilson

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→ Even in **Old Age**, those who have been **faithful**,  
can still be **fruitful** and **productive**,  
and **used by God** for continued **service**

The **righteous man** will **flourish** like the palm tree,  
He will **grow** like a cedar in Lebanon.

Planted **in** the **house of the LORD**,  
They will **flourish** in the **courts** of **our God**.

They will still **yield fruit** in **old age**;  
They shall be full of **sap** and **very green**,..  
(Psalm 92:12-14)

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Do **not** cast me off in the time of **old age**;  
Do **not** forsake me when my **strength fails**...

**O God**, You have **taught me** from my youth,  
and I **still declare Your wondrous deeds**.

And even when *I am* **old and gray**, **O God**, do **not forsake me**,  
**Until I declare Your strength to this generation**,  
**Your power** to **all** who are to come.  
(Psalm 71:9, 17-18)

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Even to *your* **old age** I shall be **the same**,  
and even to *your* **graying years** I shall **bear you!**

I have done *it*, and I shall **carry you**;  
and I shall **bear you** and I shall **deliver you**. (Isaiah 46:4)

→ **Old Age** yields the **Blessings** of **Children**  
and **Grandchildren**

**Grandchildren** are the crown of old men,  
and the **glory of sons is their fathers.** (Proverbs 17:6)

Quote→“Grandchildren are **God’s compensation** to us for **growing old.**” –  
Anonymous

→ With *Old Age* comes the important **responsibility**  
of **modeling** and **teaching Godliness** to the Young

Older men are to be **temperate, dignified, sensible,**  
**sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.**

Older women likewise are to be **reverent** in their behavior,  
**not malicious gossips.., teaching what is good,**

so that they may **encourage** the *young women* to **love their husbands,**  
to **love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind,**  
being **subject** to their **own husbands,**  
so that the **word of God** will not be **dishonored.**  
(Titus 2:2-5)

## Closing Quotes

“For the **unlearned, old age** is *winter*; for the **learned,**  
it is the **season** of the *harvest.*” ~Hasidic saying

“Some people, no matter how old they get, **never** lose their **beauty** –  
they merely **move it** from their faces *into* their hearts.”  
~Martin Bauxbaum (1942 - 1991).

“**Count** your *age* by friends, not **years.**  
**Count** your *life* by **smiles**, not **tears.**” ~John Lennon

“When granted **many years** of life, **growing old** in age is **natural,**  
but **growing old** with grace is a *choice.*  
Growing **older with grace** is possible for **all**  
who will set their **hearts** and **minds** on the Giver of **grace,**  
the **Lord Jesus Christ.**” – Billy Graham

“Just about the time a **woman** thinks her *work* is **done,**  
she becomes a grandmother.” –  
Edward H. Dreschnack (20th-century American Writer)

A grandmother’s special **calling** is to pray and to be a fellow worker  
in the **battle** in which her **children** or her **grandchildren** are engaged.” –  
Elisabeth Elliott.

"It is possible to be **happy** *without* having **perfect health** . . .  
Thank goodness **my happiness** doesn't come from **my joints**,  
but from **my heart**." - Beverley LaHaye

"The advantage to being **eighty years old** is that one  
has had *many people* to **love**." -  
Jean Renoir (French Film Director B 1894-1979)

"The **measure** of a **life**, after all, is *not* its **duration** but its **donation**."  
- Corrie Ten Boom

"**Beautiful young people** are *accidents* of nature,  
but **beautiful old people** are **works of art**." - Eleanor Roosevelt

"The seven ages of man: **spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills, wills**."  
- Richard Needham

"*Never tease* an **old dog**; he might have **one bite left**."  
- Robert A. Heinlein, Time Enough for Love

"**Old age** is just as **important** and **meaningful** a part  
of **God's perfect will** as is **youth**.  
**God** is every bit as **interested** in the **old** as the **young**."  
- J.O. Sanders

"Do **not** look forward to what **may** happen **tomorrow**;  
the same **everlasting Father** who **cares** for you *today*  
will **take care** of you *tomorrow* and *every day*."

Either **He** will you **shield you** from *suffering*,  
or **He** will give you **unfailing strength** to *bear it*."  
- St. Francis de Sales

## Closing Prayer

**“Prayer of an Anonymous Abbess:**

Lord, thou knowest better than myself  
that I am **growing older** and will soon **be old**.

Keep me from becoming too **talkative**,  
and especially from the **unfortunate habit** of thinking that  
I must **say something** on **every subject** and at **every opportunity**.

**Release me** from the idea that I must **straighten out** other peoples' affairs.  
With my immense treasure of **experience** and **wisdom**,  
it seems a pity not to let **everybody partake of it**.  
But **thou knowest, Lord**, that **in the end** I will **need a few friends**.

Keep me from the recital of **endless details**;  
give me **wings** to **get to the point**.

Grant me the **patience** to **listen** to the **complaints of others**;  
help me to **endure them** with **charity**.  
But **seal my lips** on **my own aches and pains** --  
they **increase** with the **increasing years**  
and my **inclination** to **recount them** is also **increasing**.

I will **not** ask thee for **improved memory**,  
only **for a little more humility** and **less self-assurance**  
when my **own memory** doesn't **agree** with that of **others**.  
Teach me the **glorious lesson** that occasionally **I may be wrong**.

Keep me reasonably **gentle**. I do not have the **ambition** to become a **saint** --  
it is so **hard to live** with **some** of them --  
but a **harsh old person** is one of the **devil's masterpieces**.

Make me **sympathetic** without being **sentimental**,  
**helpful** but **not bossy**.  
Let me discover **merits** where I had **not expected them**,  
and **talents** in people whom I had **not thought** to possess **any**.  
**And, Lord**, give me the **grace** to tell them so.

Amen”  
– Anonymous