

High Hopes

Raise your hand when you recognize this song:

Just what makes that little old ant ... Think he'll move that rubber tree plant
Anyone knows an ant, can't ... Move a rubber tree plant

But he's got high hopes, he's got high hopes
He's got high apple pie, in the sky hopes

So any time you're getting low ... stead of letting go ... Just remember that ant

Oops there goes another rubber tree plant

Written	1959	Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen
Recorded	1961	Frank Sinatra

I sang that song as a child. It reflected the attitude of that generation of Americans:

After WWII – after Korean conflict – the beginning of technological triumph – optimism and hope

It popped back into my head Monday night, after visiting the vet with Simone. Might have cancer.

I wasn't consciously thinking about the subject of "Hope" – I wasn't looking for a theme song ...
But I was suddenly walking through the house singing a song I hadn't thought of in 40 years.

It's a silly, simple little song. Not nearly sophisticated enough for this age. The youth of today probably wouldn't get it.

I mean ... like ... why would an ant ... like ... want to move a rubber tree plant anyway? Duh!

But, of course, that isn't the point. It's about something tiny and insignificant accomplishing an impossible task.
It's about "HOPE." It's about faith in action. It's about rising to a task that's daunting & bleak – and overcoming!

That spirit was still alive in 1972 when Joe Darion wrote the lyrics for "The Impossible Dream" (Man of La Mancha)

*To dream the impossible dream. To fight the unbeatable foe.
To bear with unbearable sorrow. To run where the brave dare not go.*

*To right the unrightable wrong. To love pure and chaste from afar.
To try when your arms are too weary. To reach the unreachable star.*

*This is my quest, to follow that star, no matter how hopeless, no matter how far.
To fight for the right, without question or pause; to be willing to march into Hell for a heavenly
cause.*

*And I know if I'll only be true to this glorious quest,
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest.*

*And the world will be better for this ... That one man, scorned and covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce of courage ... To reach the unreachable star.*

Do you understand the sentiment of this poetry?

Does it touch you at all? Does it motivate you? Can you identify with the protagonist? (central character)

I was growing up during this time period. The optimism affected me greatly. It set my "bent." I've never believed in giving up before the quest is accomplished. I'm frustrated with those that do.

In 1974, I worked as the private, personal carpenter for an eccentric businessman expanding his company.

We were building a plant for the production of computer designed roof trusses.

None of us really knew exactly what we were doing ... it was a dream ... but we succeeded ... one step at a time.

In 1976, I worked as the private, personal carpenter for an eccentric entrepreneur expanding his empire.

We took an old department store building and remodeled it into offices, labs, and a retail store.

None of us really knew exactly what we were doing ... but we succeeded ... one step at a time.

Success is always found in company with an insatiable **faith**, coupled with an undaunted **hope**.

"Hope" and "Faith" are inseparably linked. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now **faith** is the assurance of things **hoped** for ..."

"Hope" - elpis (el-pece') - to anticipate or expect that which is **improbable** or **impossible** (used 53 times in NT)

The Bible says that:

Rom 4:18 Abraham "against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations"

Rom 5:5 "Hope does not leave us ashamed"

Rom 12:12 We are to be "rejoicing in hope"

Rom 15:13 We are to "abound in hope" and that God is the "God of hope"

He is the God who calls that which is not as though it were

God's people are to:

anticipate the improbable or impossible

expect the improbable or impossible (and in this we will not be left ashamed)

The improbable and impossible are the objects of our quest ... they are the business of God's people ... our joy ...

But ... what is the object of our hope?

What, exactly is our "rubber tree plant?" (that's so hard to attain, so impossible to manage?)

What is our dream? ... our star? ... our quest?

And ... who is that unbeatable foe?

Eph 4:4

You were called in one hope of your calling (do you know what is it?)

Rom 5:2

We stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Why should God do that? It's fairly unlikely, improbable, impossible)

Titus 2:13

Looking for that blessed hope of the appearance of our Savior Jesus Christ (that's fairly unlikely, improbable, impossible)

Titus 3:7

Being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began

Col 1:5

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven

Being an impossible quest ... you can't attain this all by yourself.

1 Peter 1:21

Your faith and hope must be in God (He's the one who accomplishes the impossible)

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (our hope is only realized at the cross of Christ)

We've got to have help ... but ...

Like the little old ant ... hope accomplishes nothing apart from action:

1 John 3:1-3

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ... And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure

Rev 7:14

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Acts 22:16

Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

This quest is hampered by a foe which is not of this world, he neither sleeps nor rests, he is bent on your ultimate failure.

Rev 12:17

So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Eph 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Do you understand that our dream's an impossible dream, (you can never attain it alone)
our wrong's an unrightable wrong, (there is no price you can pay for your own sins)
and our foe's an unbeatable foe (Satan's more wily and powerful than ourselves)

Before it's over, we'll have to bear with unbearable sorrow (sacrifices we make, defeats we witness)
run where the brave dare not go (Christian life's for those up to the challenge)

But this is our quest to follow that star, no matter how hopeless, no matter how far

How about you? Are you abiding in hope? Are you up to the challenge?

Just what makes that little old ant ... Think he'll move that rubber tree plant
Anyone knows an ant, can't ... Move a rubber tree plant

Do you have high hopes?
Do you have high apple pie, in the sky hopes?

So if your soul has been brought low ... stead of simply letting go ... Just remember that ant

For with God's help ... Oops there goes another rubber tree plant!

For the people of God ... hope becomes reality on a regular basis ... for God knows how to bless His People.

Why not become a child of God today?

A journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step.

You eat an elephant one bite at a time.

And a home in the eternal heavens begins with a noble hope, coupled with an active faith.

Won't you come to Christ today?