

"It is I; be not afraid." John vi. 20.

It was night. Darkness lay upon the bosom of the Galilean sea. The disciples had "entered into a boat and were going over unto Capernaum." A "great wind" rises; and the sullen waters are lashed to fury by its force. The position of those in the boat is most unenviable. But the worst has not yet come. Dimly outlined against the leaden sky, they see what appears to be some one "walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the boat." How their hearts sink within them at the sight! They conjecture something fearful from this apparition. But, lo! a voice out of the night and the darkness, speaks calmly amidst the roaring winds and seas, "It is I; be not afraid." How often have we, fellow Christian, when sailing o'er life's stormy sea, felt our hearts sink within us, as wave after wave of trouble kept rolling in over our frail bark. The deepening darkness seems filled with grim spectres, bent on tormenting us. Winds of doubt, and billows of anxiety threaten to wreck our Faith. Evil thoughts come in upon our souls like a flood. But, just as we are about to faint and fail, we see a Figure nearing us. It crosses each billow with us; It walks upon the sea by our side. And a voice of commanding calmness sounds sweetly on our ear: "It is I, be not afraid." Fear not, therefore, fellow-voyager on life's ocean, to go down into the valleys where the shadows lie; fear not to cross the troubled waters; for One walks by your side in the darkness, saying caressingly, "It is I, be not afraid." Oh blessed "I"! May Thy protecting love ever strengthen and uphold the frailty of our humanity in every moment of need.

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