

## On Timing

The second worst thing in the world is making a mistake. The worst thing is making a mistake you never realized was one at all. While mistakes themselves cannot be escaped, for obvious reasons, we often make quite an effort to correct them, or at the very least to realize that they are there. We change our minds to reflect the ever-changing facts, standards, and morals that constantly shift in our society. Unless you are dead; then the only change you go through is from body to bones. It is this state of ultimate inflexibility that has me puzzled and given me pause; not in and of itself, but in its relation to time and change.

This question first crossed my mind reflecting on the life of Aung San Suu Kyi. For practically her entire life, Suu Kyi had been a role-model, an idol, a living symbol of righteousness: the daughter of the Father of the Burmese Nation, she had dedicated her life to bringing democracy and freedom to her country, for which she was placed under decades of house arrest and government censure. Her resistance to this and her persistence in fighting for these ideals and for the Burman people captivated and inspired the entire world. She became a beacon of justice and freedom in the face of overwhelming oppression, which earned her numerous humanitarian awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Murals of her were painted, statues of her erected, children's books about her written, inspirational quotes by her spoken in abundance. Praise poured like a waterfall from the mouths of important people across the world, from statesmen to artists, scientists to philosophers. This brilliant, near-mythic life culminated in a fairy-book ending: under pressure from her, her domestic supporters, and the international community, she was finally released from house arrest and her and her party were allowed to contest national elections. Then, after years more of tireless campaigning and struggle, her party won. The evil military government, who for years had tried to vanquish Suu Kyi, instead was vanquished in turn. Freedom and Liberty had finally come to Burma, and Suu Kyi was elevated to the role of Prime Minister in the first truly democratic government in nearly half a century. And they all lived happily ever after.