

Reflection Wednesday Week 4 2023

From Ronald Rolheiser:

Poem written to a 10-year-old:

I wish someone like you
could have guided Adam through
his first fact-finding tour
or his Father's store eons before
and named
much more than claimed
things as his own
or told us what they're for.

We both know Adam's handicap:
he had no niece
nor patience, nor the peace
to wait for one.

But this he could have done:
called upon his little girl
to come along
not set out alone
to claim
and name
and number when his first call
clearly was to ponder
and to wonder.

Jerome Harry Hellman, OMI

These words echo Elizabeth Barrett Browning who once said that the earth is ablaze with the fire of God, but only those who see it take off their shoes – the rest sit around and pick blackberries!

Ordinary ground is holy. There is more than enough mystery, secret, marvel, and miracle ablaze in ordinary reality. Unfortunately, most of the time we don't see this because we stand before it trying to claim, name, number and render familiar ... when our true task is to ponder and to wonder.

We begin to take things for granted at the precise moment when we no longer approach life with eyes of a 10-year-old who can look at a small town and still see its rich secrets. Familiarity deadens the soul and spawns resentment.

True contemplatives, mystics, and children never live the illusion of familiarity. For them, there is only holy ground, the extraordinary miracle in ordinary life. They *"have learned to look at things familiar until they look unfamiliar again."* G.K. Chesterton

I'm only familiar with 25 letters in the English language. I don't know why.

Everyone knows about Murphy's Law where anything that can go wrong will go wrong, but are you familiar with Cole's Law? It's mostly made of cabbage.