

I Wonder And The Reason

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The whole day is in a minor key and colored gray. I sit on a high cliff with my back against a tree—gazing at the sky and the water—trying to make myself a part of their tranquillity. Up above is the sky—spread with a thick layer of gray clouds; it hangs low over the earth. Beneath lies the water—endless rows of small waves, pinched into shape and pushed to shore by the slow wind. The trees, too, are playthings of the wind; it uses their stark, black branches as strings and strums long sad chords upon them.

I am calmed by the serenity of these things—the sky, the water and wind. Not always are they serene—sometimes heaving and lashing in a mighty storm; but I have the feeling that this violence throws them out of their correct place in the scheme of things. Thus when they return to serenity, they are once more akin to the calm, ordered mechanism of the universe.

The universe—I wonder—how did it begin? How will it end? What is its purpose? My mind asks these questions—tormenting itself—for it knows there is no answer. Yet it continues to ask, why?

Simply because that driving, seeking force—sometimes called “intellectual curiosity”—will not allow it to cease. If this curiosity is present in a human being, it will first be evident when he is a child, asking why the sky is blue, why the dog barks and why the fire is hot. As a person grows and becomes truly mature, his intellectual curiosity will become one of the two most essential forces in his life.

The other force is faith, faith in God. This may vary in concept, but not in intensity. Strong faith is necessary as a counterbalance; and if it is lost, the intellectual curiosity will run rampant, leaving the individual in the midst of spiritual shambles. He needs it desperately to sustain him, to strengthen him so that he will not become overwhelmed and disillusioned by the knowledge he has gained. And the greater his knowledge becomes, the stronger must be his faith to sustain this knowledge.

Thus man, ever searching and straining upward in his quest for knowledge, is immeasurably aided by these two magnificent forces: intellectual curiosity and faith.