

Sunday, December 13, 2020 - *Advent*



The answer to your question is “Beauty”

Greetings!

Ever had the experience of **overhearing a conversation** taking place at another table in a restaurant and wishing you could be in on it?

If the circumstances are right you may feel free to insert yourself into the conversation – or if you think you can do so without being told to mind your own business!

In that case, **normal people** usually approach it in a polite way like, “Pardon me, but I couldn’t help but overhearing your conversation, and..., etc.”

But **if you’re me**, you’ll probably take a more, shall I say, *direct* approach like: “Hello, the answer to your question is ‘Beauty.’” And then walk away.

That’s odd behavior, I know, but in my defense, it’s not my normal mode of interacting with people. The particular incident I’m referring to was a calculated intervention into a real-time conversation for the sake of a young soul (but bear with me while I explain.)

Here’s the context of the incident, which may make my intrusion a little more understandable.

The atheist at the bagel shop

One weekday morning I was enjoying my usual double-toasted sesame bagel with butter at my favorite bagel shop in town, and I really *couldn’t* help but overhear two college kids having a rather loud conversation about atheism at a nearby table.

Actually, *only one of them* was doing the talking, and, judging from the uncomfortable looks of **the second guy** who was shifting in his chair, I got the feeling he was on the fence, uncertain about himself, trying to make sense of the arguments presented with such force:

“I *really would* believe in God...” said the aggressor with a dramatic pause, “...if there were just some tangible evidence for his existence.”

“Really?” I said to myself as his words hit my ears. “*Is he really going there?!*”

The guy went on to parrot the materialist argument scientists sometimes use that all reality is somehow *measurable*. The corollary is that if you can’t measure something (see, touch, feel, control it) **–it doesn’t exist.**

This was his flimsy argument: "I can't see God.**Ergo**, God doesn't exist."

So now you know the context of my rather odd remark. At that moment, I was faced with three choices. I could:

1. Just **ignore those guys** under the guise of respect for privacy and let the atheist wreck the tottering faith of the second guy.
2. Start the polite way, "Pardon me, but I couldn't help overhearing your conversation..." and provoke a drawn out debate about **atheism vs. faith**. Or...
3. **Drop a truth bomb** that would make both of them think. (And then walk away.)

Call me impetuous, but I didn't feel 1/ was proper because I couldn't ignore the vulnerability of the uncertain young man. I also know from experience that *I'm a hotheaded debater* (...okay, I'm not proud of that) so option 2/ might have actually been counterproductive.

So, since I was done with my bagel and heading out anyway, **I chose option 3.**

"Hello," I said as I approached their table and looked the atheist directly in the eye.

"The answer to your question is 'Beauty'."

Both of the young men looked up at me and got strangely quiet. I dropped my bomb and walked away.

Alright, maybe I should have left my business card and told him to call me if he wanted to discuss it, but I didn't have any on me at the time. Perhaps it was a missed opportunity.

Basically, it was a judgment call about getting my message across most effectively.

I hoped my departure would make them focus on the truth that had just flown in unexpectedly out of left field and had blown up abruptly in the midst of the atheist's pontifications.

The young men had more to chew on that day than bagels.

Beauty as evidence for God

Beauty as evidence for God is one possible – and excellent – answer to the question the young man didn't even know he was asking. Clearly, though, he was searching.

But he thought he was proclaiming an infallible truth – the "I don't believe in anything my eyes can't see" argument of materialism.

You know and I know it's a vacuous argument, but young idealists can be swayed to believe it by clever college professors or friends who are forceful in their opinions.

I didn't have time for a long debate, so I dropped a truth bomb: **Beauty is the answer.**

Or at least part of the answer of how we "see" God.

Not proof but experience

Beauty answers the fundamental longing of the heart for God because it's a window into transcendent reality. **It's a sacred window.**

When one views a magnificent mountain panorama, for example, one can choose to see a pile of rocks formed by prehistoric upheavals of the earth, or...

...one can take in the breathtaking experience of beauty and lift one's heart and mind to heaven as the psalmist did: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, whence shall come my help" (Psalm 121:1).

We can't control or measure beauty in a direct way. **We can only experience it**, enjoy it, and allow it to speak to us of an unseen world.

There are actually no absolute "proofs" for the existence of God that would satisfy a confirmed atheist. God is not so easily boxed in and defined.

His existence can *only be demonstrated* in ways that show us there is more to this world than meets the eye.

*The answer to many questions of life is simply **Beauty**.*

Our feature article

Anyone who doubts whether God exists will find an answer in the feature article of this week's newsletter: "The Sublime Worship of a Renaissance Hymn".

It describes a piece of choral music written by Thomas Tallis in 1565 and performed in the modern day by the Cambridge Singers.

Well, I'll let you read the article and experience the marvelous hymn yourself.

It is truly sublime.

(If you know any atheists, send them a link!)

Our second article is the inspiring story of a 12-year-old martyr.

You won't want to miss it either.

(Remember that I publish one article a week and the newsletter every two weeks.)

Thank you!

A blessed Advent to you and your loved ones,

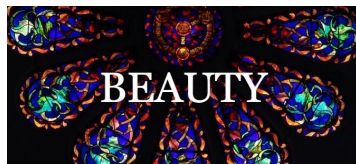
Peter Darcy

PS—Feel free to let me know what you think about any of the Beauty-Truth-Goodness articles in the comment sections at the end of each post. I love feedback **(and also truth bombs)!**

The Sublime Worship of a Renaissance Hymn



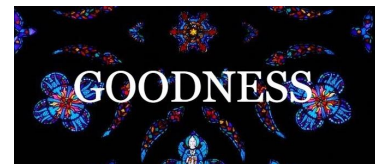
A Modern Day Maria Goretti



Angels
Art & Architecture
Inspiration
Literature



Church & Sacraments
Faith & Mysticism
God & Jesus Christ
Intelligent Humor



Eucharist
Generosity
Heroism
Marriage & Family

Music & Performance
Natural World
Wonder & Ingenuity

Prayer & Spirituality
Scripture
Virgin Mary & Saints

Martyrs & Witnesses
Missionaries
Virtue



TO CONTACT PETER:

Email: peterdarcy@sacredwindows.com

Author's Website: www.petedarcywriting.com

Strength of Soul Books: publisher@strengthofsoulbooks.com
