

Practicing wonderment

Beloved person,

An egg. Have you ever looked at one as something that no human could have invented? That shape. Elusive as an object. An infinitely beautiful package representing future life?¹

These are the words of Henk Helmantel accompanying one of his paintings. I saw two eggs in an abandoned blackbird nest. Something happened to me while looking at it. In the colours, in the subtle striping, in the details of the twigs and how he captured the light and shadow. It spoke of so much love and wonderment for creation. Thereafter, I didn't ever want to see an egg as something ordinary again. His view and his vision changed mine.

In the same museum I read a saying by Jopie Huisman. He loved 'De Holle Mar' ('The Hollow/Deep Marsh'), an area of meadowland near Workum. 'If my stomach could stand it, I would happily eat the mud there. Heaven couldn't be more beautiful than De Holle Mar. When I am here alone, I feel as though I am connected to my creator by a thread.' Being willing to eat the mud and feeling connected to your creator by a thread. With the One, with eternity, with the power of life, with the source. With something of an entirely different order. With God. With ...

In connection with that which gives us – and everything that was, is and will be – life, viewed from out of that feeling of mystery, an egg and mud become something very special. And while the painting and the words bring me closer to the wonder, the secret remains elusive.

Perhaps you know the longing to be deeply touched and moved, to go home exhilarated, to be blown away. But the reality is that it doesn't happen to us very often. And yet: precisely when looking closely, it can happen. If you practice regularly and if you open yourself to it, then you can see and feel it. Perhaps you need something to silence the noise in your head so that you can pay attention to it. Do you know what can help you in this? And what can you learn about this from others?

Nourished and anchored in our being apostolic, we want to live exemplifying reverence for the wonder in seemingly ordinary (everyday) things. As apostolic people, we continually search for space to experience the transcendent dimension and dare to give words to this. It is a part of our personal development, it gives us direction, and we exemplify this for our children. In this way of looking and living lies beauty and in practicing this lies that same beauty.

What are you going to be amazed by today? And tomorrow and the day after...?

With my warm-hearted greeting, gladly your sister,
Nanda Ziere



We remind ourselves of our baptism promises