

A little piece of...

Beloved person,

*It began a long time ago
with an enormous explosion.
No-one knows how it happened,
but then there was a universe.
And I am a small part of that,
just like you, you know.
And within it we are sitting on
a tiny blue planet.*

*There, it is bursting with life,
so rich and so special.
This is perhaps the greatest miracle
in all the universe.
A miracle that is so great,
much greater than you can see.
A miracle that, every day,
I enjoy some part of.¹*

Sometimes a new song just won't let you go. That happened to me with the new children's choir song *The miracle*¹. Not just because of the melody or the words, but mainly for what the song expresses. It sings about something that often comes naturally to children: an open and inquisitive view on life. They ponder things that we often pass by, for example, a snail that is on its way to the other side of the footpath. A rainbow after a heavy shower. A wink while walking by. Where adults are often in a hurry to move on, children stand still and observe, as if they know there is something to be discovered here. When did something apparently small last caused you to stop and ponder?

The children invite us with this song not so much through the ability to teach you to wonder, but more importantly, not to lose it. To preserve something of that open view with which they approach the world and to not lose that when life gets busier, fuller and more complicated. To keep the ability to be touched and surprised by life, alive within ourselves. Surely you also recognise that we become so familiar with the miraculous, that we forget how special it actually is. Or that you spend a bit too much time looking at your screen and no longer notice what is happening around you.

In this context, wonder is a religious-humanist fundamental attitude. An attitude of openness, in which head, heart and soul maintain a space for the unexpected, the playful, the heart-warming and the divine. It invites us to be present and to remain receptive to what life has to offer us and which you can enjoy anew every day.

The song also touches on something else. Behind amazement also hides a deep feeling of faith. In the simple words: '*And I am a small part of that, just like you, you know.*' there resounds a self-evident awareness of connectedness. What the children sing to us is that we are not outsiders in this miraculous existence, but that together, we are a part of it.

Just imagine that young and old are truly aware of this. That we don't just understand but also feel that we are a little piece of this infinite totality. That despite all the uncertainties and worries that life sometimes has in store, we are able to, and dare to, be a part of that life. Then faith is not a feeling that comes and goes but becomes a basis of our existence.

With a warm-hearted greeting, gladly your brother,
Marten van der Wal



Attention for youth

¹Marcel Heerink, '*The miracle*', Children's choir song

The themes of faith, wonder, passing on love and active hope will be central in the last quarter of 2026.

For more information see:

www.apostolischgenootschap.nl/jaarthema2026