

Illuminating Grace

I have little desire to go to those places that are warm, southern, bright, populated or touristy. Instead, I am drawn to desolate, barren and inhospitable places, that, more often than not, are northern, cool, shadowy and hostile in nature. I like the tranquil, silent, remote and austere places, for they allow me to experience the primordial - the raw stuff of life.

I am captivated by places where growth is slow and measured, insecure and vulnerable. Where answers are revealed through perseverance and struggle as if time itself were inconsequential. The fragility of those regions weave a magic upon me that simply draws me closer to the "ground of all being" – that which makes me tick and has shaped my being.

Why? Perhaps, it could be that I am a true canuck? Maybe my childhood warped me to a certain predisposition? Then again, maybe it was because I was put up for adoption – an abandonment of sorts - cast out into the wilderness of God's vast domain?

In reality, my fondness for the less appreciated and wilder places is because of the light! There is a subdued, tranquil quality to the way that light permeates such spaces. Light, in a haunting, visceral way, draws me ever inward and outward at the same time. No matter the mode or vehicle of mobility, it has always been the light that has captivated me by invading those seemingly impregnable recesses of the barren and forlorn topography before me.

It is also why I journey with Christian intent. It has little to do with belief, faith, miracles or tradition. It has everything to do with "Christ" the light. His light transforms and reaches into the crevasses of my life... those barren and forlorn areas where truth and beauty can be revealed. To be illuminated by the light is nothing short of miraculous. It is a revelatory sojourn beyond the normality of the everyday and into the soul of being.

Whether upon the Scottish Highlands, the oceans deep or the northern light territories, when the light invades with its touch and caresses all comes into subtle focus. So too does the light of Christ as it basks the recesses of heart and mind. Indeed, it is always the light that brings us into seeing while allowing the truth to emerge – the illuminating grace of the light of Christ!

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