

## Daniel's reflection for week beginning 6th November A New Way of Looking

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There I was at the dentist's waiting to be called. Like those around me in the waiting-room, I was pretending not to be afraid. I needed a distraction. I reached for the magazines. One of the ubiquitous Magic Eye books was waiting to be engaged. I picked it up and read the instructions on the cover. For a new way of looking at the world, 'diverge' your eyes and do not focus on the image: instead, let the image come into focus. So I sat back and began to stare at the picture on the front page. As I focused, or rather unfocused, a kind of transformation took place. Something started happening to the flat, two-dimensional drawing of your average assortment of swimming fishes. Suddenly I was part of an enchanting underwater world of 3-D excitement. The picture had taken on the depth and rich perspective of a mysterious, subaquatic, quasi-tropical reality. For a rare moment, I was out of time. . .

The impact of the incarnation on Christian consciousness can be described as the gift of insight into the meaning of things. At some point in our lives, if we refuse to resist, a kind of 3-D effect enriches our perception of reality. As a result of divine revelation, the flat becomes deep, the ordinary extraordinary. In the light of the mystery of God's becoming human, our frame of reference shifts, a refocusing takes place and our way of attending to what happens is drawn into a new setting.

On that morning in the dentist's, even my nerves forgot to play me up, as I gaped and gawked at the changing scenery before my nose. Once I got the hang of it I was hungry for more. . . Something like this, I believe, is what happens, at the level of grace, when the Spirit of understanding develops within us the mind of Christ.

There are moments of conversion in our lives – significant and unexpected surprises when the wall cracks and we see heaven through the split; when the focus shifts and we are in another dimension; when the routine and the familiar break open to reveal a dynamic beauty and rhythm. Such moments are often called sacramental. Something like it happens when we fall in love. We take a delight in looking at and being present to the one who transforms our life. . . It is about opening up the ordinary to find within it the deeper mystery

( *Passion for the Possible* pp205, 206)