

## Day 182 – Friday, September 18 – The Headaches Begin

Physically, I am mending quickly. It seems I have no repercussions at this point. My right shoulder, the one injured in March seems to be feeling stretched; but no headaches, no pain. Getting stronger every day. However, now the headaches of insurance and car shopping begin. I am going to try and get all the insurance things done [today](#), hopefully that will happen. And the number one thing that increases my blood pressure is car shopping. I have never bought a vehicle thinking, “I got a great deal.” You never know what the future will bring, and I always think, while I am driving off the lot, the salesman is a happy person. But if that is the least of my problems, I will be a happy man.

I had supper with a wonderful parishioner last night (my secretary lined up a bunch of people to cook me supper, and share it with me) and we both agreed that God’s angels are a lot closer than we think. When I was a small boy, I remember thinking that God is far away. Earth is here, but heaven is light years away. But as I get older, I am beginning to realize that the veil between this world and the next is not light years in thickness, but in reality only a thin film. And I would go so far as to say that there are those on this side of the veil that have had glimpses of the other side, and there are those on the other side that have made their presence known on this side.

Throughout the years, mystics have had glimpses of the other side...from Stephen in the Acts of the Apostles, who saw the heavens open; to John in the book of Revelation who saw a new heaven and a new earth. One of the problems of such a vision is the description, our human language is limited, and we do not even have words to describe what we see. I remember reading one person saying, ‘It is like describing a three dimensional reality with two dimensional words. It is just not possible. But what does come through loud and clear is, “It is beautiful...it is wonderful!”

And conversely, when someone slides from the other side of the veil to this side, they have no choice but to affect what happens on this side. I know this happened last week at my accident, and I am sure many of you have had a similar experience. And in just the same way, we do not even have the words to describe what happened, and so you have a lot of people saying, “What just happened? How is that possible? That was quite a coincidence!”

In a way Jesus’ whole life was one such moment. The second person of the Trinity breaking the physical world. Do we have words to even describe the Incarnation—not really, except to say: “it is very beautiful...it is wonderful.” When Peter experienced this on top of the mountain during the Transfiguration, he could not explain what was happening. Only to say that it was so beautiful and wonderful that he did not want it to end.

Perhaps that is what our response should be, to merely immerse ourselves into the presence of Christ and experience his beauty and wonder. I cannot think of anything I would rather be doing.

*In the light of eternity, we’re here for a very short time, really. We’re here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein