

Walk the Rainbow

Violet



Violet is at the limit of visible light for humans. It is at the edge of mystery.

Many people have had an experience which seems to be on that edge of mystery - often a very private and precious experience.

It can raise many questions - and yet seem in some strange way to hold the answer to all the questions.

You can pick up a question mark here and carry it with you if you wish.



Walk the Rainbow

Indigo

Indigo is the deepest blue, the colour of the sky as the light fades and the stars come out.

Gazing at the stars often prompts us to look at ourselves - to reflect on the reason for our existence.

One man asked God the question, “Why are people important to you?”

Today's' scientific star-gazers - astronomers – understand that the whole universe seems designed for human existence. Some of them are asking the same question..



Walk the Rainbow

Blue



Seen from space, Earth is the blue planet, colour of the sky and of the sea. Water is the birthplace of all life.

Jesus talked often of another world, a parallel world, a world so close that we can touch it. Children seem to see it easily - 'the kingdom of heaven.'

Water is the symbol of entering that other world
- the water of baptism.

The colour blue also reminds us of Mary, the mother of Jesus, whose faith and obedience is an example to all.

Spend some time dribbling water through your hands and/or looking at a picture of Mary and the infant Jesus. What do they mean to you?



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Green



Green reminds us of the natural world, of lush growth, of food to eat. It is associated with peace.

Look at the greenery : nibble a leaf; smell an aromatic herb.

Do you feed your spirit by spending time in the natural world?

Do you sense the presence of the Creator here?



Walk the Rainbow

Yellow



Yellow is the colour of many flowers in the wild. Flowers speak of beauty, love, procreation - abundance of life.

Yellow is also the colour of gold - a symbol of salaries and bank accounts and mortgages.

Where does the balance of priorities lie?

“It is worth nothing for a man to have the whole world if he loses his soul,” said Jesus. “ He could never pay enough to buy back his soul.”



Walk the Rainbow

Orange



The purpose of a flower is to produce fruit so that life will go on.

What kind of fruit are we producing?

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Galatians 5:22



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Red



Red is the colour of opposites, of paradox.

It stands for warmth and excitement, for blood and for danger. It speaks of life and of death.

The red wine we sip at communion is a symbol of that paradox.

Red also reminds us of the Christians who have sacrificed their lives for the faith; all the martyrs of the church, past and present.



Walk the Rainbow

White



White speaks of purity, of holiness, of heaven. In a secular world, such words can seem lacking in excitement, drained of colour.

Yet white is *all* the colours of the rainbow.

White speaks of life in all its richness, life with a purpose, life that touches the unseen mystery around us.

Is such a life possible ?

The red wine in the communion cup says it is.



Under the stars

Are the stars visible tonight?

Abraham looked up into the jet-black desert sky. He felt God was saying something totally crazy to him: even though he was old and childless he would become the father of a great family. A family that through the generations would become as numerous as the uncountable stars.

You could be still and sit - or stand or lie - and gaze at the stars.

Or - if you want - think about some of the other things here.

*I look at your heavens, which you
made with your fingers.
I see the moon and the stars, which you created.
But why are people important to you?
Why do you take care of human beings?*

David - Psalm 8

This is our galaxy - the Milky Way. Earth is near the edge.

It contains about a hundred billion stars.

It is rotating in space like a giant Catherine Wheel. Each rotation takes 300 million years.

There are a hundred billion other galaxies in the universe.

Scientists tell us the universe has to be this big for us to exist.

Does that tell us anything about how important we are to God?



They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
Between stars - on stars where no human race is.
I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

Robert Frost, *Desert Places*.

Do you have 'desert places' inside that scare you? ...
Where is God in those places?



Comet Hale-Bopp 1997

Photo: NASA, www.star.ucl.ac.uk/~spod

Comet Hale-Bopp got everyone craning their necks to look at the sky in 1997.

'God's glory is on tour in the skies.
God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.'

Psalm 19: 1

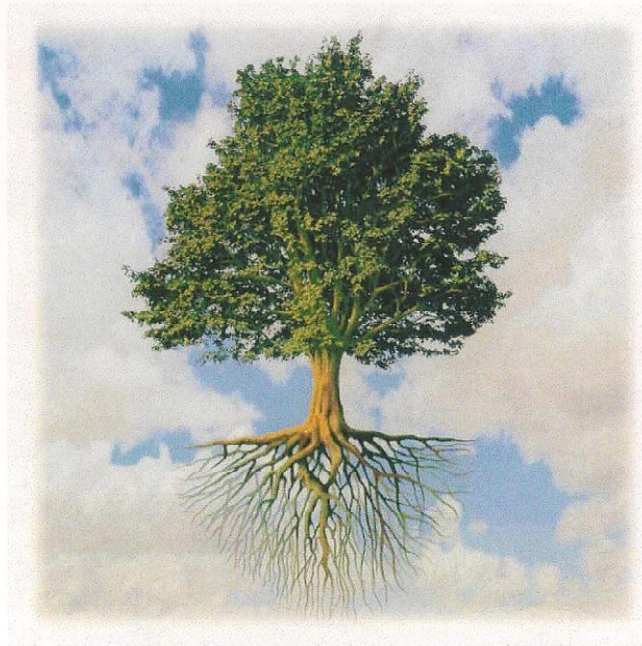
Like a tree

Press your ear to the trunk of a tree. Listen.

Put your arms around it and feel its strength.

Sit under the tree. Think of the birds, animals and insects that live in it, are protected by it, feed on its leaves, seeds or fruit ...

The prophet Jeremiah said that a person who trusts God is like a tree with plenty of water for its roots. Think of yourself as a tree like that. What would it mean for the way you live, the blessings you would bring to others? ...



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*The person who trusts
in the Lord will be blessed.
He will be strong, like a tree
planted near water.
That tree always produces
fruit.*

Jeremiah 17: 7-8



2

Vision of the heavenly Jerusalem

'Then the Angel showed me the Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the throne of God and the Lamb, right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations'.

Revelation 22: 1-2



- 1 www.cordis.lu/esprit/src/melari.htm
- 2 www.sover.net/~kenandeb/fire/tree
- 3 Chris Chesterton

'The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day'.

I speak for each no-tongued tree
That, spring by spring, doth nobler be,
And dumbly and most wistfully
His mighty prayerful arms outspreads,
And his big blessing downward sheds.

Sidney Lanier



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