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The Eyes of God

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"It has been my belief that one's faith should always be the center of his or her life; I know this has not always been the case with me, but more often than not, I feel that I do a decent job. Having been raised in the Christian tradition, I have come to see the world through a distinctly Christian lens regarding moral issues. Someone told me once that a prophet is nothing more than a person who sees the world through the eyes of God. I do not, under any circumstance, claim to be a prophet, and I feel that the above statement does do something to undermine the prophet's status. I do feel that this - to see the world through the eyes of God - is an achievable goal."

The Eyes of God

It has been my belief that one's faith should always be the center of his or her life; I know this has not always been the case with me, but more often than not, I feel that I do a decent job. Having been raised in the Christian tradition, I have come to see the world through a distinctly Christian lens regarding moral issues. Someone told me once that a prophet is nothing more than a person who sees the world through the eyes of God. I do not, under any circumstance, claim to be a prophet, and I feel that the above statement does do something to undermine the prophet's status. I do feel that this - to see the world through the eyes of God - is an achievable goal.

When I speak about seeing the world through the eyes of God, I am talking about being saddened by injustices to humanity. By looking at a poor man on the street begging for money and watching everyone passing him by; by listening to peers talk about the most immoral of actions and seeing that they really have no idea that what they are doing is by any means wrong; and, by reading signs on the side of the road that support hatred toward life in all its forms and stages, I feel the injustice of it all. If one can look upon these things and be filled with sadness, he or she is looking at the world through the eyes of God. There are of course always two sides to the story, and I must here also acknowledge all the good that is present in the world. I have also witnessed the world as God sees it and been overjoyed by the amount of love that is at work within it. To see the mentally and physically challenged engaging in play and other affirming activities with other people, as if their disability didn't exist; to see a faith community, young and old alike, come together to worship; and to see a person who is dealing with a loved one's death taking the event not as an end, but as a beginning, surely pleases God. It is only

when I can see the world through the eyes of God that I can look into myself and assess the changes I need to make to become a better Christian. And only when this happens do I feel that I have enough credibility to give others a small push in the right direction. Looking through the lens of faith is a funny thing; society seems to be lacking in some way, and it would seem that those who lead a God-pleasing life are somehow marginalized to make way for the moral decay of the day.

It is important to state here that there is a difference between looking at the world through a lens of faith and seeing the world through the eyes of God. The difference is that one can look through a lens of faith and see the world for what it is, allowing for a religious slant to interpret it. However, looking through the eyes of God is viewing the world, and its actions, mostly concerning justice to humanity, not only for what they are, but also for what they should be. These moments when one sees through the eyes of God are few and far in between, but when they come I feel very close to my purpose in life; if only I could muster them forever! But, as Jesus denied Peter's request to remain at the site of the transfiguration, we, too, must move on into the world and try to do our best with what we have seen and what we have been given.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is not easy to see the world through a lens of faith, and it is even harder to see it through the eyes of God. But, if one does receive this gift to see the world through the eyes of God even if not often, and actively lives a life pleasing to God, then one is only a lifetime away from a paradise promised by Jesus to the righteous. The road is not easy and is seldom traveled to its full extent, but at its end there is the greatest reward of all: peace.

***** Peter Santandreu**