

**Devotional Thoughts :: Idling life away like an idiot or a madman -philpot**

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When one is spiritually reborn, he  
sees at one and the same moment . . .

God and self,  
justice and guilt,  
power and helplessness,  
a holy law and a broken commandment,  
eternity and time,  
the purity of the Creator, and  
the filthiness of the creature.

And these things he sees—  
not merely as declared in the Bible—  
but as revealed in himself as personal realities,  
involving all his happiness or all his misery  
in time and in eternity. Thus it is with him  
as though a new existence had been communicated,  
and as if for the first time he had found  
there was a God!

It is as though all his days he had been asleep,  
and were now awakened—  
asleep upon the top of a mast,  
with the raging waves beneath—  
as if all his past life were a dream,  
and the dream were now at an end.  
He has been . . .

hunting butterflies,  
blowing soap bubbles,  
fishing for minnows,  
picking daisies,  
building houses of cards, and  
idling life away like an idiot or a madman.

He had been perhaps wrapped up in a religious  
profession—  
advanced even to the office of a deacon,  
or mounted in a pulpit. He had learned to talk  
about Christ, and election, and grace,  
and fill his mouth with the language of Zion.

But what did he experimentally know of these  
things? Nothing, absolutely nothing!

Ignorant of his own ignorance (of all kinds of  
ignorance the worst)—  
he thought himself rich, and increased with goods,  
and to have need of nothing—  
and knew not that he was wretched,  
and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

more Pearls from Philpot