

2nd December 2020

Searching

**“A man travels the world in search of what he needs
and returns home to find it.”**

George Moore, The Brook Kerith

George Moore, the early 20th century Irish Novelist, is right. We can search and search for what we need, and it might just be under our noses all the time. And, as I reflected on his words, this story began to emerge ...

A man went on a search for the meaning of life. He travelled far and wide, covered many miles and looked in many places. As he did, he gained wealth, status and fame. By any measurement, he'd been a success. "I will find meaning in this," he said. But wealth gave him no sense of purpose. Status gave him no peace. Fame was only an illusion of self-worth.

He explored ritual and tradition, religions and philosophies. He spent time with Gurus and Sufis. He lived in temples with monks and in silent isolation. "I will find meaning this," he said. But rituals were empty. Traditions became a dull set of routines. Words were devoid of substance.

He met with saints and heroes. He read of the lives, achievements, examples of great people, paragons of virtue, lights of holiness in dark places. "These will give me meaning," he said. But though he copied their ways and sought to emulate their living, he found no fulfilment of his own.

He saw sights and wonders on his travels. He was amazed by the magnificence of the world, its variety and colour, drama and grandeur. "This will give me meaning," he said. But though he marvelled at mystery and delighted in beauty, he was not changed.

So he abandoned his travels and gave up his search for meaning. He came home to what was familiar, where he knew what to expect. He lived simply, for he needed no wealth. He reflected deeply, for he had no ritual to use. He communed with his own soul, for he had no other companion. He found meaning in the silence and guidance in his dreams.

There was once a man who went on a search for the meaning of life but discovered it only when he came home and found himself.

Adapted from *Welcoming Each Wonder* by Tom Gordon

A prayer for today

I search for what I already have. I wonder about what I already know. Amen

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