

25<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Thought

**“My thoughts and I were of another world.”**

Ben Jonson, *Every Man Out of His Humour*

I had a Thought! In truth, it was a profound Thought, or so it seemed. It came to me when I was on my way to the Post Office. Not that it's particularly important where I was going when I had my Thought, but it's best that you know that there were other thoughts in my mind apart from The Thought that came to me between home and the Post Office. It was a remarkable Thought, though. So much so that, once it was planted in my mind, it began to take the shape of a “Thought for the Day”. It felt like it was going to be the best ever. I was so pleased I had The Thought.

In his epic poem, *The Eve of St. Agnes*, John Keats wrote: “Sudden a thought came like a full-blown rose, flushing his brow.” I don't know whether my own brow was flushed or not, but by the time I arrived at the Post Office, a full-blown rose of a “Thought for the Day” had blossomed in my mind. It was stunning, quite wonderful! What a Thought!

There was a queue at the Post Office. The lady in front of me was someone I knew from church. We talked about this and that – “this” being her recovery from Covid, and “that” being about family – as the queue inched forwards. My engagement with the Post Office counter-assistant wasn't complicated, but there were several parts to it: money to be counted; stamps to buy; a parcel to send; a cheque to deposit.

When it was done, I headed for home, keen to commit The Thought to paper for your edification and delight. And when I sat down at my lap-top – I couldn't remember what it was! The Thought had gone, pushed aside by conversation and commerce, practicalities and purchases. I don't know whether in Ben Jonson's terms The Thought was “of another world” or not. But it had clearly departed from my world to languish in another world of its own, a world I was unable to reach.

And my conclusion, what is *now* my “Thought for the Day” for today? Not “the best ever” that could have been, but a simpler thought altogether. Don't let what's good slip away because other, less important things press for your attention. Value what matters, even in the moment. For, you never know, it might just be the best ever ...

### **A prayer for today**

*A thought? God loves me! I'd better hold on to that in case it slips away ... Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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