

1st May 2024

Windows

**“To see all the world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the plan of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.”**

William Blake, Auguries of Innocence

I've never seen all the world in a grain of sand. But I have seen all the world through a bathroom window, and a little bit of heaven too. An hour? No, I didn't have that long. A few seconds had to be enough.

I was on holiday in Perthshire, and our cottage was at the edge of a woodland, overlooking Loch Tummel, on the other side of the loch from the amazing "Queen's View." The first day had been wet, so our time was spent dodging showers. But on the second morning, we woke to glorious sunshine. I slipped into the bathroom at the rear of the house for a quick shower, and happened to glance out of the small window that overlooked the woodland. And I saw the whole world through a pane of glass.

The first thing that caught my eye was the flash of a little bird, followed by another, and another. They were too quick for me to identify, but there were lots of them, flitting this way and that, from branch to branch, tree to tree, doing whatever birds do first thing in the morning. Then, there was a butterfly, dancing in the air, here, there and everywhere. And then there were two, and three – or maybe one of the first two back again for another fandango. Wonderful! And flies! Yes, flies, or maybe just one fly pretending it was a swarm. Who cares? Certainly not the fly, that's for sure. There was moss on the side of a broken fencepost; a random clump of primulas; trickling little burn; on the bush outside the window, a spider's web, moving in a gentle breeze, glistening in the sunlight; and a spider, hiding, perhaps, or maybe not woken up yet?

A whole world in the morning air, in the trees and bushes, in the moss and ferns, even under the ground. A whole world in a pane of glass. A bit of heaven? Yes, that too, thankful as I was that, like William Blake, I'd had taken a few seconds to notice the wonder and beauty of life that was just outside my window. There are lots of windows that invite us to do that. And tomorrow? Maybe I'll take an hour ...

A prayer for today

A whole world, just there, and all for my delight! Amazing! Amen