

24th June 2026

Glory

"And glory shone around."

Bible, *Luke 2:9*

Following my piece on "Quietness" recently, a friend wrote to me, recalling an experience of peace and wonder on the Island of Iona. "I heard a still small voice on the White Strand one dawn on Iona," she wrote, "when 'glory shone around', and all was still, and the island was yet to awaken." And having just received a lovely message from a friend who is holidaying by Oldshoremore beach, I was prompted to write what follows for them, in the hope that, when you experience wonder and glory as they do, you don't analyse it too much but just learn to be restored by the moment.

*When glory shone around,
I so was fearful, so overwhelmed,
for this was too much to look upon,
too much to comprehend,
too much for me to appreciate.*

*And a still, small voice whispered,
"Do not be afraid, my child.
Keep looking around you.
Be awakened, to see, and know,
and enjoy what you experience."*

*So, I lifted my eyes again,
and found a glory beyond words,
so utterly pure and beautiful,
glorious and remarkable,
that I wept with joy.*

*For the gift of this moment
was mine to know in my very soul.
I did not need to understand
why this place of wondrous glory
could offer me such restoration and peace.*

*And in this moment of transcendence,
my fearfulness departed,
as I was held in the healing embrace
of the glory that is of God –
the glory that shone around.*

A prayer for today

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Oh yes! The glory that shines around!