



healing the world one book at a time

Village of Care Press

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Foreword Excerpt

One of the most significant parts of our journey together is taking time to wonder. Wonder is birthed from curiosity. Wonder allows us to use our imagination, to be creative and playful, to dream, and to be freed from old narratives and past wounds. Wonder is the essence of Holy Mystery. . . .

Wonder allows us to be okay with waiting and not knowing. Wonder invites us to grow beyond what we know because there is something new Holy Mystery wants to teach us. Wonder helps us remember that we are all beginners on this journey. We do not know the destination, and we can let go of the need to know. In this place of freedom that comes from wondering, we can come to know true *shalom*—peace and wholeness.

Lil Smith, Retreat House Founder

Preface Excerpt

Wonder, and its partner in crime, awe, are integral to our spiritual and emotional lives. Wonder connects us to something greater than ourselves—God, nature, humanity, and the universe. It reminds us to be humble yet empowered, for we are small yet mighty in the vastness of Creation. It invites us to embrace Mystery and to sit with questions, rather than doggedly pursuing answers. It opens the door to seeing beauty across time and space in a world where everything is alive.

Gretchen Martens

November Wonder

by Lil Smith

It is another season, and I still
wonder who you are

I wonder why you needed my attention
with the thundering, charging waves
bubbling at my feet

I wonder how you needed my attention
when the ray of light
burst through the clouds
and warmed my head

I wonder where you needed my attention
when you surprised me
with one sleep at the foot of my bed
that made us friends

I wonder what you needed from me
when I was too absorbed in myself
that I did not notice you
waiting for me

It's no wonder the power and beauty
of your creation
captures my attention

It's no wonder the joy
of your radiance
turns my attention

It's no wonder the healing love
of your compassion
transforms the one who fears me

It's no wonder you ask nothing of me
and wait patiently
with gentle, open arms

It's another season of letting me wonder
who I am with you

Sample Poem
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Wonder's Sweet Sorrow

by Michele Wahlder (1963–2025)

I don't know how long I have left to live.
I live amongst sweetness and sorrow.
Wonder shines her light on the smallest of things—
The way sunlight streams onto my poodle Mercy's paws.

I marvel at what love can do,
This rescue dog now laced with confidence,
Has let down her guard.
What will she do without me?

The way my husband's tender hands dab water
From my skin after a shower
Then one foot at a time,
Rolls the socks up my legs.

Oh, the wonder, that he exists.
How long will I get to have this beautiful man?
My grief lives in a room of windows
Looking out into memories of my living.
There is beauty and bounty in these scenes,
Wonder, in the amazement of what we have shared.

Can I trust in the mystery?
My soul an essence still there
To nurture and guide.
Something greater to shepherd
Our steps into the dying.
I marvel at what love can do