

# Bewilderment and Wonder

*Brother John*

In my choice to become a monk, I have entered a wilderness. “The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak” (Hosea 2:16). In today’s world, what a time to do such a thing! What a risky business! Abandon the given “ways of the world”. Forget the ordinary way of doing things—the “way they are done”. Think “out of the box”. Don’t “follow the herd”. Watch out! You will not be the first one to become “bewildered” in the wilderness—dazed, blinded, lost, alone.

Wonder does not just happen—it is not an automatic human response to the unexpected, the unexplored, the unknown. Wonder is the fruit of desire, of openness, of gratitude and gift. Wonder, when discovered, dives deeper into our humanity, soars higher into the divine.

Time and space in the wilderness seem like aliens to time and space in our culture, in our “given world”, in the “way things are done”, in the “thinking” of this age. Time is money, space is private property, thinking is plotting, people are pawns. Will we who have chosen to walk in the wilderness lose touch with the reality of now? Will we become bewildered? Or will our hearts listen to a voice beyond our own? Will we discover wonder? ❧

*This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of brother John’s entrance into our Benedictine monastic community in 1957.*

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*Seeds of Newness*

God of our lives, be our life.  
God of our days, help us to redeem our times.

from the song GOD OF OUR LIVES

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