



KNOWING & DOING

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What the Bird Said Early in the Year

by Joe Kohm
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*I heard in Addison's Walk a bird sing clear:
This year the summer will come true. This year. This year.
This year time's nature will no more defeat you.
Nor all the promised moments in their passing cheat you.
This time they will not lead you round and back
To Autumn, one year older, by the well worn track.
C.S. Lewis
– What the Bird Said Early in the Year*

More than an intellectual ode to spring, CS Lewis's poem contrasts the temporal with the eternal. Addison's Walk is a mile long path through the grounds at Magdalen College, Oxford, where Lewis had a midnight conversation with friends, J.R.R. Tolkien and Hugo Dyson. A plaque with the entire poem stands as a monument on the property. This conversation centered on the truth of Christianity (Christianity as the true myth) and was instrumental in Lewis' conversion.

As Christians, it is important that we distinguish the temporal from the eternal. Our earthly bodies decay and break down, and we eventually lose our race with time. In eternity, in the presence of the Lord, time and nature lose their grip. All our unfulfilled "promised moments" that left us disappointed will be forgotten and swallowed up in the singular splendor of the Lord's glory. ✠





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