

“What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know.”

Saint Augustine

“My Lord Chief Explorer, Imagination, deserves a more complete introduction than the by-the-way mention he has had as a colleague of Intellect. He is an amazing personage, with the power to produce, as we have seen, *a procession of living pictures in every region open to Intellect*. Great artists, whether they be poets or painters, builders or musicians, have the power of expressing and showing to the rest of us some part, anyway, of the wonderful visions Imagination has revealed to them. But the reason why we enjoy their pictures, their poems, or their tales, is because Imagination does the same sort of thing for all of us, if in a less degree. *We all have pictures and poems made for us on the inner curtains of our minds.*”

Charlotte Mason Vol. 4, p. 48

“I believe this passionately: that we don't grow into creativity, we grow out of it. Or rather, we get educated out of it.”

Ken Robinson (TED Talk)

https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity

“Every person, no matter how battered by life, is created in the image of God.”

Rick McKinley, “This Beautiful Mess”

“The source material for the entire physical universe is the imagination of God.”

Erwin Raphael McManus, “The Artisan Soul”, p. 94

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

Hebrews 11:1 - 3 (NIV)

“The life of faith is less about gathering information than it is about expanding the imagination. The movement Jesus started was a movement of dreamers and visionaries, not a movement of academics and theologians.”

Erwin Raphael McManus, “The Artisan Soul” p.101

Radiolab “*Seeing in the Dark*” <http://www.radiolab.org/story/245482-seeing-dark/>

The word imagination means "to face"—to visualize an image, to almost make the thought concrete from within. The power of reasoning and the power of imagining go hand in hand. *The power of reason without imagination tends to make us materialists and unable to understand faith.*

E.A. Parish, 1914 Parent's Review article

“Now imagination does not descend, full-grown, to take possession of an empty house; like every other power of the mind, it is the merest germ of a power to begin with, and grows by what it gets; and childhood, the age of faith, is the time for its nourishing. The children should have the joy of living in far lands, in other persons, in other times - a delightful double existence; and this joy they will find, for the most part in their story-books. Their lessons, too, history and geography, should cultivate their conceptive powers. If the child does not live in the times of his history lesson, be not at home in the climes his geography book describes, why, these lessons will fail of their purpose. But let lessons do their best, and the picture-gallery of the imagination is poorly hung if the child have not found his way into realms of fancy.”

Charlotte Mason, vol 1, p 153

We are outfitting for a life of whatever comes rather than the perfectly safe life we all imagine our kids living.

“The food of mind, a daily bread as necessary as that of body, is precisely those "mental pictures or ideas" which imagination produces; and for this reason, children must have the mind-stuff which they can transmute into such pictures or ideas; nothing external serves the purpose. I am not bold enough to say with Mr. Chesterton, "Hans Anderson or Hell," but I do venture to say that the mind which does not feed on poetry, history, fiction, travel, all the treasures that are bound up in books, on pictures, on the beauty of a sunset or a flower, *such a mind may be acute and alert*, but it does not dwell in heavenly places.”

Charlotte Mason, “The Imagination in Childhood”

“Education is the Science of Relations; that is, that a child has natural relations with a vast number of things and thoughts: so we must train him upon physical exercises, nature, handicrafts, science and art, and upon *many living* books; for we know that our business is, not to teach him all about anything, but to help him to make valid as many as may be of -

‘Those first-born affinities

That fir our new existence to existing things.’”

Charlotte Mason, principle 13

“We need not say one word about the necessity for living thought in the teacher; it is only so far as he is intellectually alive that he can be effective in the wonderful process with we glibly call “education.”

Charlotte Mason

“These are pretty dreams, and there is not much harm in them, except that, while one dreams, one forgets to do, and life is made up altogether of doing and not at all of dreaming. It is very nice to dream, when people have been finding fault with us, that we shall do wonderful and beautiful things - nurse the sick and build wonderful palaces for the poor and make gardens of delight for the mother or father who finds fault with us - and to think how everybody will admire us for all our beauty and goodness and cleverness, especially those people who have laughed at us; to think, too, how kind we shall be to them and what presents we shall make them, and how sorry they will be that they have not always been polite and kind!”

Charlotte Mason, Vol. 4, p. 49 - 50

“You wouldn’t go to *Macbeth* to learn about the history of Scotland - you go to it to learn what a man feels like after he’s gained a kingdom and lost his soul.”

Northrop Frye, *The Educated Mind* (p. 64)

“Several years ago, I was invited to a conversation at Columbia University in New York City. The subject was “What can be known?” On the panel were one of the university’s premier scientists and the head of the Department of Humanities, who was a Kantian philosopher. After the opening remarks, I knew for certain that I should have come better prepared. In an auditorium filled with hundreds of students and faculty, it was not difficult to ascertain that my faith put me in a slim minority...

“When you were a child, you had imaginary friends like Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy and God. Why did you get rid of your other imaginary friends and keep God?”

“Even now, I still love this question. With very little time to construct a thoughtful response, I approached it like this: ‘First of all, it’s clear you don’t know me if you think I’ve given up my imaginary friends. Yes, you’re right that when I was a small child I had imaginary friends like Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, the giant rabbit that hid in my closet and only came out at night (but that’s a different story), and God. I suppose if you conclude that all your imaginary friends are constructs of your imagination, then eventually all those imaginary friends should disappear with maturity...

He went on to tell a story of how his son when he was little would eat rocks and not eat vegetables. He didn’t know the difference between what was necessary and what was not good for him.

“Fortunately for Aaron, just because he couldn’t distinguish between peas and rocks, we didn’t give up on proper meals. In the same way, just because when you are a kid you can’t distinguish between Santa Claus and God, you don’t give up on your imagination and assume that all your imaginary friends need to be extricated from your life. You see, if your imaginary friend somehow transforms your life, makes you a better human being, moves you from arrogance to humility, from greed to generosity, from hate to love — if this imaginary friend changes everything for you and makes you the kind of human being you’ve always longed to be but could never find the strength to become alone— do not, I repeat do not, ever give up on that imaginary friend, because that imaginary friend who changes everything for the good is the most real thing you’ll ever know.’

Is it possible that the human imagination is the playground of God, that while we fill the imagination with Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny, our imagination was always intended to be the place where humans could interact with God? Only in our imagination can we begin to contain even the smallest expression of the bigness of God; only in our imagination can we accomplish anything, go anywhere, or become anyone; only in our imagination do we have boundless possibilities and endless potential; only in our imagination can we even begin to conceive of what reality might become if it began to reflect the imagination of God. In our imagination, conversations that come from someone who is all-knowing and all-powerful and all-present, for whom all things are possible, can be engaged at a human level.

“The reason I didn’t give up on God when I put away my other imaginary friends is that every time I create more room by vacating an imaginary friend, I find more space for those extraordinary encounters with the living God.”

Erwin Raphael McManus, *The Artisan Soul* (p. 100)

The Explorer - Rudyard Kipling

“THERE’S no sense in going further—it’s the edge of cultivation,”
 So they said, and I believed it—broke my land and sowed my crop—
 Built my barns and strung my fences in the little border station
 Tucked away below the foothills where the trails run out and stop.

Till a voice, as bad as Conscience, rang interminable changes
 On one everlasting Whisper day and night repeated—so:
 “Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges—
 “Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!”

“The fundamental job of the imagination in ordinary life, then, is to produce, out of the society we live in, a vision of the society we want to live in.”

Northrop Frye, *Educated Imagination*, p. 140

“We must be able to see those things which are invisible, *or how can we lift up our eyes to God?* Imagination is, like faith, the evidence of things not seen; indeed, is not faith the supreme effort of imagination wherein she stretches her wings, compels her powers to produce mental pictures, or ideas, of the things eternal?”

Charlotte Mason, “The Imagination in Childhood”

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.”

Frederick Buechner, “Wishful Thinking”

“This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Jeremiah 6:16a (NIV)