



welcome

to the

river

*Firey Bushes and the  
Subtle Art of Paying Attention*

Exodus 3:1-6

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M i k e   E l l e r



## Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Exodus 3:1-6

5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.




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God shows up in the ordinary, everyday  
experience of life.

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Paying attention is a prelude to thanksgiving.

Paying attention —> Awe —> Reverence —> Thanksgiving



“When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” (v.12)






The extraordinary in the ordinary  
The sacred in the mundane

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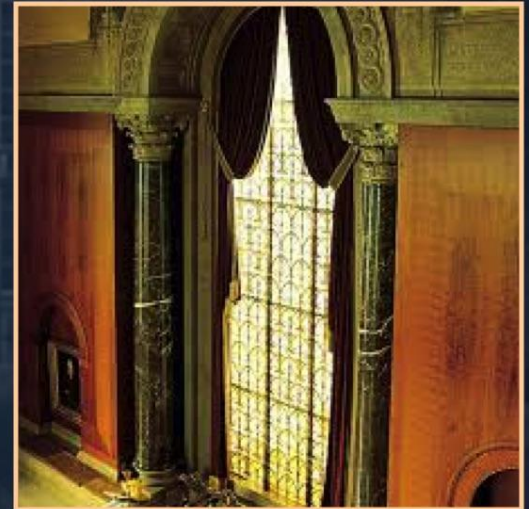



“Reverence is the virtue that keeps people from trying to act like gods. Reverence is the recognition of something greater than the self — something that is beyond human creation or control, that transcends full human understanding.”

— Paul Woodruff



Armstrong  
Browning  
Library





Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning



## Practical Suggestions

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- ▶ Take a moment to pause, even go out of your way, to observe something in nature.

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- ▶ Go out of your way to pay attention to people.

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- ▶ Take a moment to pause, even go out of your way, to observe something in nature.
- ▶ Go out of your way to pay attention to people.
- ▶ Have a healthy perspective of your material possessions.

