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## Enjoying Mysteries

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## Enjoying Mysteries

When I was of high school age, a favorite radio program of mine was, "I Love a Mystery." With stories that we either hear or read but do not see, we have to use our imaginations to picture the scenes. No two of us visualize events in the same way, yet all of us can enjoy the same story. We do not create the basic stories themselves, but we take pleasure in them to the extent that we actively participate with imagination, understanding, and emotional responses.

Mystery stories challenge our powers of reasoning and our openness to intuition. We relish solving mysteries, but we also appreciate taking part in the process of making connections, checking our assumptions, and being surprised by the successive narration of events. We are familiar with mysteries both fictional and real, and comfortable dealing with them.

We might not think at first that the non-fictional mysteries we ordinarily encounter outside of recreational activities would be enjoyable. But if we consider, even briefly, some of the mysteries that are part of our daily lives, we will almost certainly appreciate them, and find in them a source of consolation. Mysteries of faith and love, of nature, life, and our physical and spiritual senses, provide us with opportunities to experience simple and sincere joy any time we choose to reflect on them.

The mysteries of our lives are all real-life stories, involving ongoing challenges not only to our minds, but to our hearts as well. We experience in ourselves exciting, sometimes frightening, twists and turns of plot that unfold in ways just as complex and unpredictable as what we find in the writings of the best novelists. If we are willing to look for and to acknowledge the exercise of such qualities as honesty and courage, love and compassion, rather than focus our attention on achieving a complete understanding, we can enjoy our participation in some of the mysteries that open out before us.

A mystery story, when we reach the end, is finished. The mystery is solved, and our temporary pleasure is also concluded – and that is fine. But some of mysteries we live with are never solved completely; partial solutions content us. We continue on and resolve even more of the questions that arise. The mysteries of life are so great that after we reach a satisfying solution, we might at any time discover an additional answer that encompasses even more of the mystery, without causing our previous answers to be wrong.

What are some favorite mysteries to which we can turn again and again, to enjoy them? For all that we know about child-birth, do we not take pleasure in observing one infant grow – predictably, yet also in unique and unforeseen ways? How is it that you or I have come to have, at this point in life, a positive attitude, when there is so much suffering in life? We observe what is around us, and we choose an answer that satisfies us for now; and the process continues. We each live, and live well, with many mysteries for which we have only partial, but sufficient answers for the moment.

God's love, our love for one another, confidence and kindness: these, and any we might call to mind, are mysteries we can investigate, consider, and resolve in a delightfully mysterious fashion. We can enjoy, but never fully explain, how it is that we have the power to wonder at questions both simple and complex, and find within us some answers that truly satisfy. What or Who is the source of this inner search and joy of discovery?

Enjoy your mysteries.