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## Mini-Miracles

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## Mini-Miracles

I lost my house-key, and had to work my way around the perimeter of a dark residence before finding – very uncharacteristically – an unlocked sliding door. I was in the house, but where was my key? I prayed a bit – always do when I have not a clue about what to do. Next morning I looked in the car, and just managed to spot the key down in the mechanism for the seat belt, and was able to extract it. I was more than pleased; I was grateful, believing that I had been helped.

The essence of mini-miracles is not that the laws of nature are suspended, but that our ordinary capacities are enlightened, and our pleasure is derived not primarily from our accomplishments as individuals, but rather from our shared successes with one or more others who freely assist us. As persons, we experience gratitude for the way the cosmos conspires with us and for us. Some would say that “God can be found in all things,” when noticing more-than-coincidental helps and benefits among every-day occurrences. Others might be more inclined to think that “using one’s head” is all it takes for satisfying daily attainments. The perspective that draws forth a positive, encouraging movement of gratitude would seem to be a more worth-while perspective for appreciating mini-miracles.

We are not in charge. We can work hard to solve problems, correct mistakes, and to act justly and responsibly; we can be kind to one another and respectful of ourselves. But we do not create the world, much less the persons with whom we share the environment where we live. Most of what we have and are is given to us, provided for us, or made possible for us by others, including God. Rather than being bad news, placing us in a position of indebtedness, we can accept that we are privileged persons, living with the gathered and shared wisdom and accomplishments of people we know and many who are completely unknown to us. Each day, if we reflect even briefly, we can find in our experiences some surprising little gifts that elicit gratitude.

Mini-miracles abound, for those of us who are willing to accept that God works with us in our thoughts directly, and also aids us through the gracious good-will of others. If we prefer to believe that everything that happens in our lives is a direct consequence only of our decisions and actions, we will find no causes for thankfulness; self-congratulation is not nearly as satisfying as the reception of even the smallest of gifts from someone who cares.

