

## Authority

So much fuss. So much noise. At first only the spectacle of the man cured. Then upon reflection

“Here is teaching that is new and with authority behind it”

Last Sunday after the celebration of the masses I set off walking to Brinscall over the Darwen moors,  
and through Tockholes woods.

As is usual now, I timed my walk badly. Returning via Great hill back through the forest Cathedral I  
found myself walking guided only by moonlight. So bright was the light that I was followed by moon  
shadows. This same moon made patterns with the snow and branches of the trees.

It was quietly, magnificently beautiful

Making my way along the top part of Donkey Brew I heard the blast of fireworks coming from  
Darwen Tower with rattles and crude crescendos of reds and blues and purples. Someone must have  
been attempting to mark an important occasion with this exhibition of excess.

The display finished. The silence returned.

The moon continued to illuminate the silver snow covered fields

“Here was beauty that is always new, and with authority behind it”

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We are all too often deafened to the reality by the hue and cry of panic. Those with the loudest  
voices disfiguring the issues with punch lines, and brow beating threats. The most complicated  
problems, reduced and refined into what the public can feel safe with. Into what can grab the  
headlines. Into what can alleviate the fears while not necessarily dealing with the issues.

Once this display is finished people of faith are called to silence.

To allow patience and contemplation to illuminate the choices

To look where there is beauty that is always new, and with authority behind it

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A family row is rarely based upon the accusations and observations of the assailants. Behind the fury  
of the son is often the frustration of a disappointment, the inability to live up to pointless  
expectations. Acceptance and reaction to felt illness often covered hidden by sharp words and

diversionary tactics. Personal inhibition projected onto innocent children. Fears rooted in irrelevant events of the past, pushed into the present, and repeated in the future generations.

When the screaming has subsided. When the individuals have returned behind the barricades of their neurosis.

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Strangely it is not the display that is the most dramatic

It is not noise that creates the greatest disturbance

It is the beauty with the authority behind it

That creates real change

Have courage

Have courage

Listen to the wisdom

Look beyond the spectacle

In the silence of prayer seek out the teaching that has authority behind it