

The Other Side of All Doubt

A Well-Worn Path of Knowing

Amy Fiedler
Living Education Retreat 2025





Mason Testimony





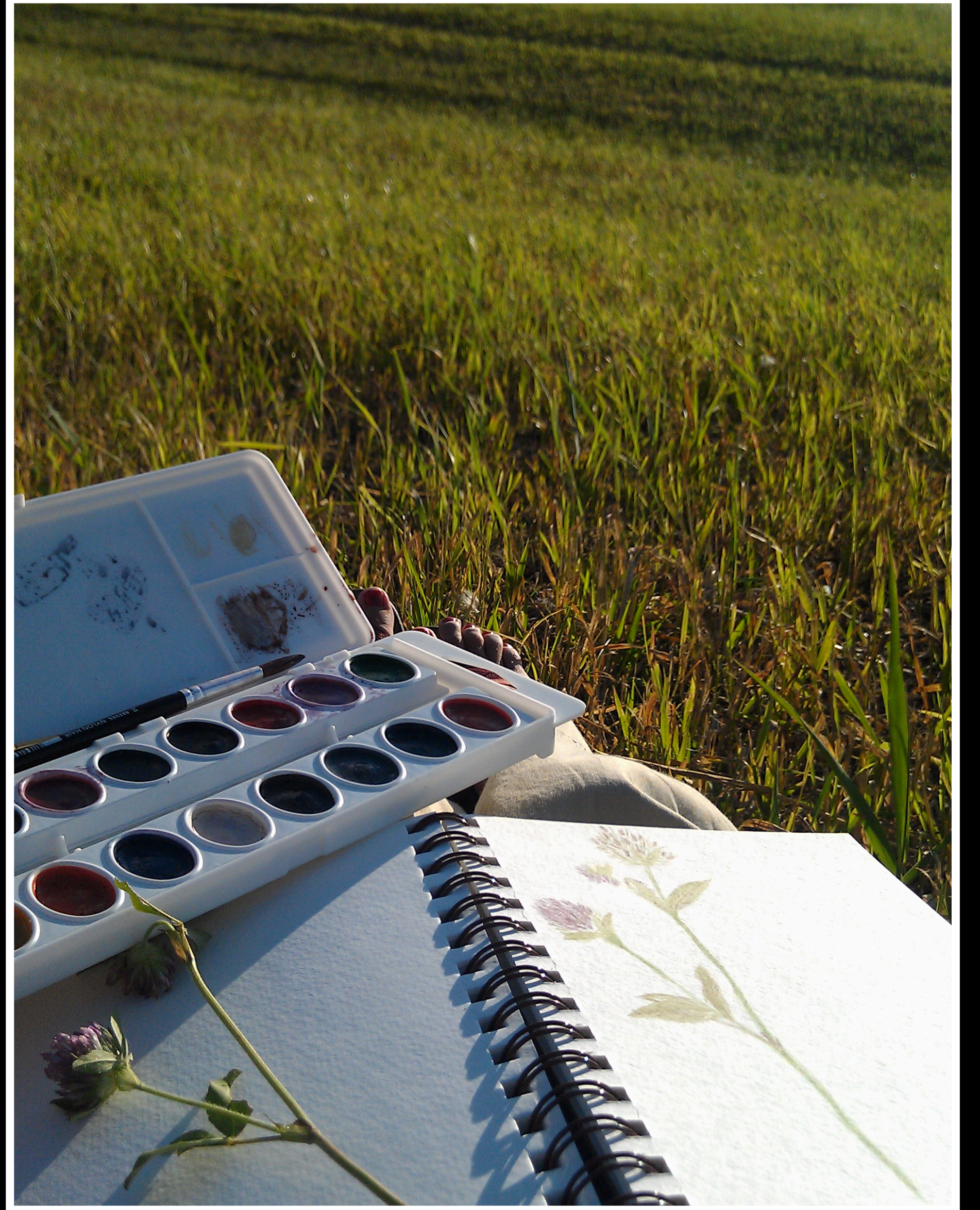
“A person is not built up from **without but from within**, that is, **he is living**, and all external educational appliances and activities which are intended to mould his character are decorative and not vital...no external application is capable of nourishing life or promoting growth; ...**life is sustained on that which is taken in by the organism**, not by that which is applied from without.”

vol. 6, pp. 23-24









“On my arrival at Ambleside I was interviewed by Miss Mason who asked me for what purpose I had come. I replied, “I have come to learn to teach.” Then Miss Mason said: “My dear, you have come here to learn to live.”

The Story of Charlotte Mason, p.60

“We consider that education is the **science of relations**, or more fully, that education considers what relations are proper to a human being, and in what ways these several relations can best be established; that a human being comes into the world with capacity for many relations; and that we, for our part, have **two chief concerns**—first, to put him in the way of forming these relations by **presenting the right idea at the right time**, and by **forming the right habit** upon the right idea; and, secondly, by **not getting in the way** and so preventing the establishment of the very relations we seek to form.”

vol. 3, pp. 65-66

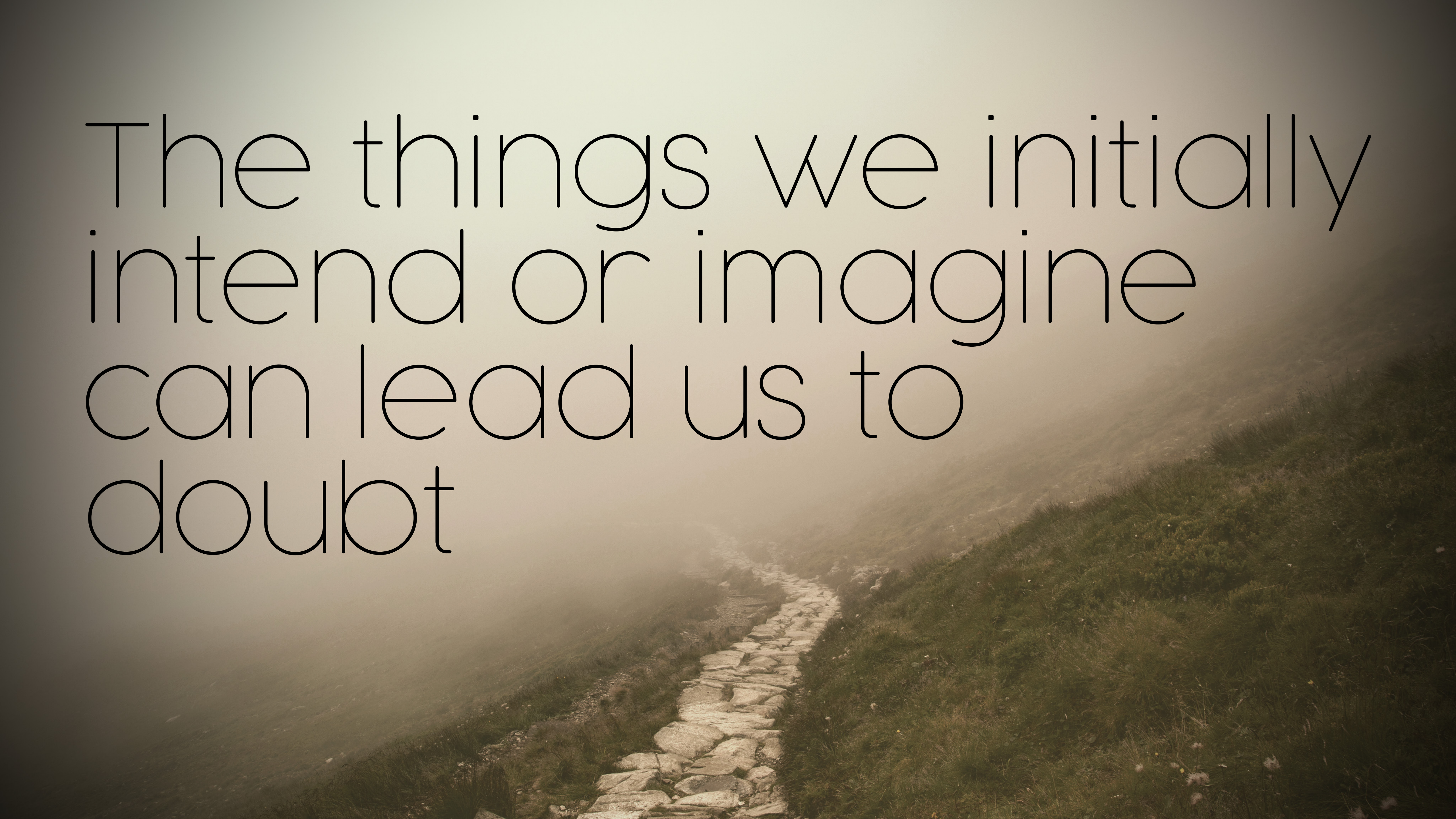
Finding Community



Let us try, **however imperfectly**, to make education a science of relationships—in other words, try in one subject or another to let the children work upon living ideas. In this field small efforts are honoured with great rewards, and we perceive that the education we are giving exceeds all that we intended or imagined.

Vol. 3, p. 163

The things we initially
intend or imagine
can lead us to
doubt



Picture

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Picture
Books

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is right before or after main plenary sessions)

THANKS!
AO Lists for reference - **HERE!**

History

History

History





The Key

By J. Brunskill-Davis

My boy sits
Curled over
The book,
Holding it
Too tightly
With a thin hand
And
Tense in his uncertainty.

My boy looks
Seeing black
Symbols
And
Something close
To loathing
Saps his concentration

To me
The words unlock
A store of vast delight,
But my boy
Does not have
The key.

We can only rightly understand and implement this living PHILOSOPHY when we have our eyes wide open to the living PERSONS standing in front of us.



“I am considering a child **as he is**, and am not tracing him, either with Wordsworth, to the heights above, or, with the evolutionist, to the depths below; because **a person is a mystery**, that is, we cannot explain him or account for him, but **must accept him as he is.**”

vol. 6, pp. 238 - 239

Living Method vs System

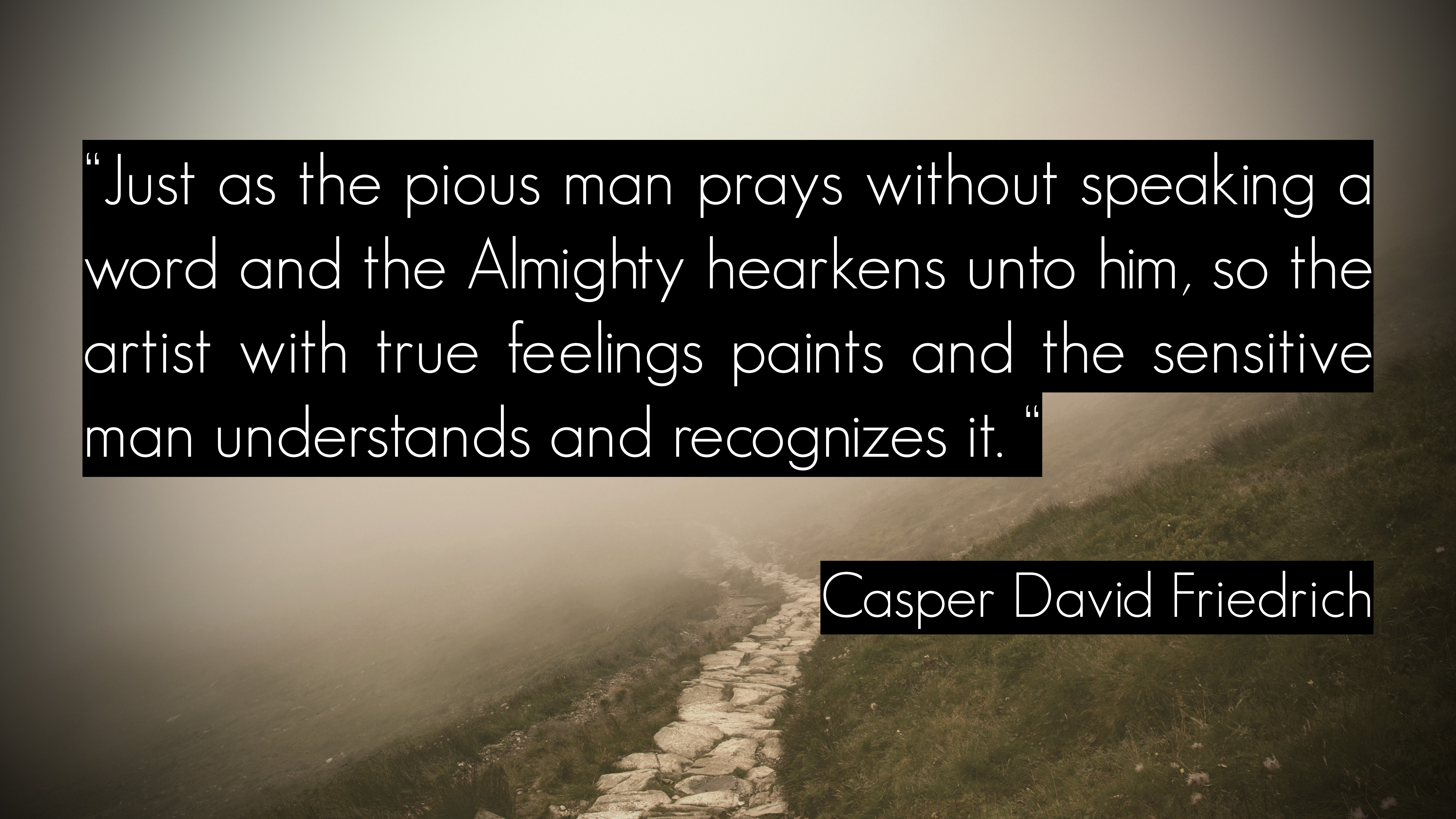


“In the first place, **we have no system** of education. We hold that great things, such as nature, life, education, are ‘cabined, cribbed, confined,’ in proportion as they are systematised. **We have a method of education**, it is true, but method is no more than a way to an end, and is **free, yielding, adaptive** as Nature herself. Method has a few comprehensive laws according to which details shape themselves, as one naturally shapes one’s behaviour to the acknowledged law that fire burns. System, on the contrary, has an infinity of rules and instructions as to what you are to do and how you are to do it. Method in education **follows Nature humbly; stands aside and gives her fair play.**”

vol. 2, p.168


Picture Study



A misty landscape with a stone path leading up a grassy hill. The path is made of irregular stones and leads towards a distant, hazy horizon. The grass is green and the overall atmosphere is soft and ethereal.

“Just as the pious man prays without speaking a word and the Almighty hearkens unto him, so the artist with true feelings paints and the sensitive man understands and recognizes it. “

Casper David Friedrich

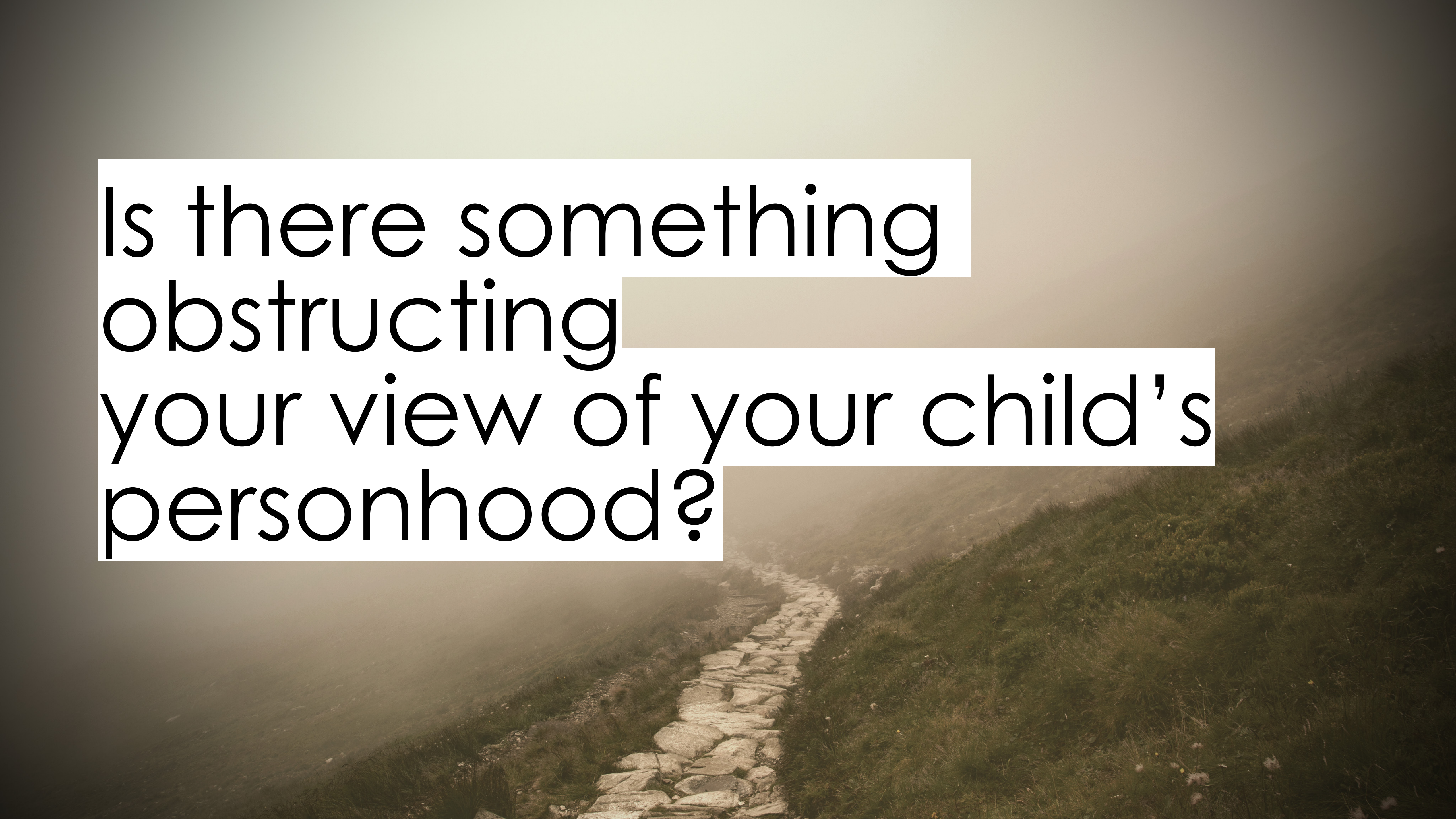
A photograph of a stone path leading up a grassy hill. The path is made of irregular stones and is flanked by green grass. The background is a hazy, misty sky, suggesting a mountain landscape. The overall tone is soft and atmospheric.

Rückenfigur

“There are always those present with us whom God whispers in the ear, through whom **He sends a direct message to the rest.** Among these messengers are the **great painters** who interpret to us some of the **meanings of life.** To read their messages aright is a thing due from us. But this, like other good gifts, does not come by nature. It is the reward of humble, patient study.”

Vol. 4, Book 2, p. 102

Is there something
obstructing
your view of your child's
personhood?



Children are
born
persons.



Our business is to find out **how great a mystery a person is** *qua* [as a] person. All action comes out of **the ideas we hold** and if we ponder duly upon personality we shall come to perceive that **we cannot commit a greater offence** than to maim or crush, or subvert **any part of a person.**”

vol. 6, p. 80





“Our aim in education is to give a **full life**. We begin to see what we want. Children make large demands upon us. We owe it to them to initiate an immense number of interests. ‘Thou hast set my feet in a large room,’ should be the glad cry of every intelligent soul. **Life should be all living**, and not merely a tedious passing of time ; not **all doing** or **all feeling** or **all thinking**-the strain would be too great-but, all living; that is to say, we should be in touch wherever we go, whatever we hear, whatever we see, with some manner of vital interest.”

vol. 3, p.170

“We all have need to be trained to see, and to have our eyes opened before we can take in the joy that is meant for us in this beautiful life.”


vol. 4, p. 43

“Establishing proper relations is necessary for ‘fullness of life and joy in living.’”

vol. 3, p.75

Preparing for
what is
difficult.



A stone path leads up a grassy hill under a cloudy sky. The path is made of irregular stones and is flanked by green grass. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

"When a child is called upon to be courageous, there isn't time to run and grab the right book."

- Liz Cottrill

“No one knoweth the things of a man but the spirit of a man which is in him; therefore, **there is no education but self-education**, and as soon as a young child begins his education he does so as a student. Our business is to give him mind-stuff, and both **quality** and **quantity** are essential. Naturally, each of us possesses this mind-stuff only in limited measure, but we know where to procure it; for **the best thought the world possesses is stored in books**; we must open books to children, the best books; our own concern is **abundant provision** and **orderly serving**.”

vol.6, book 1, p.26

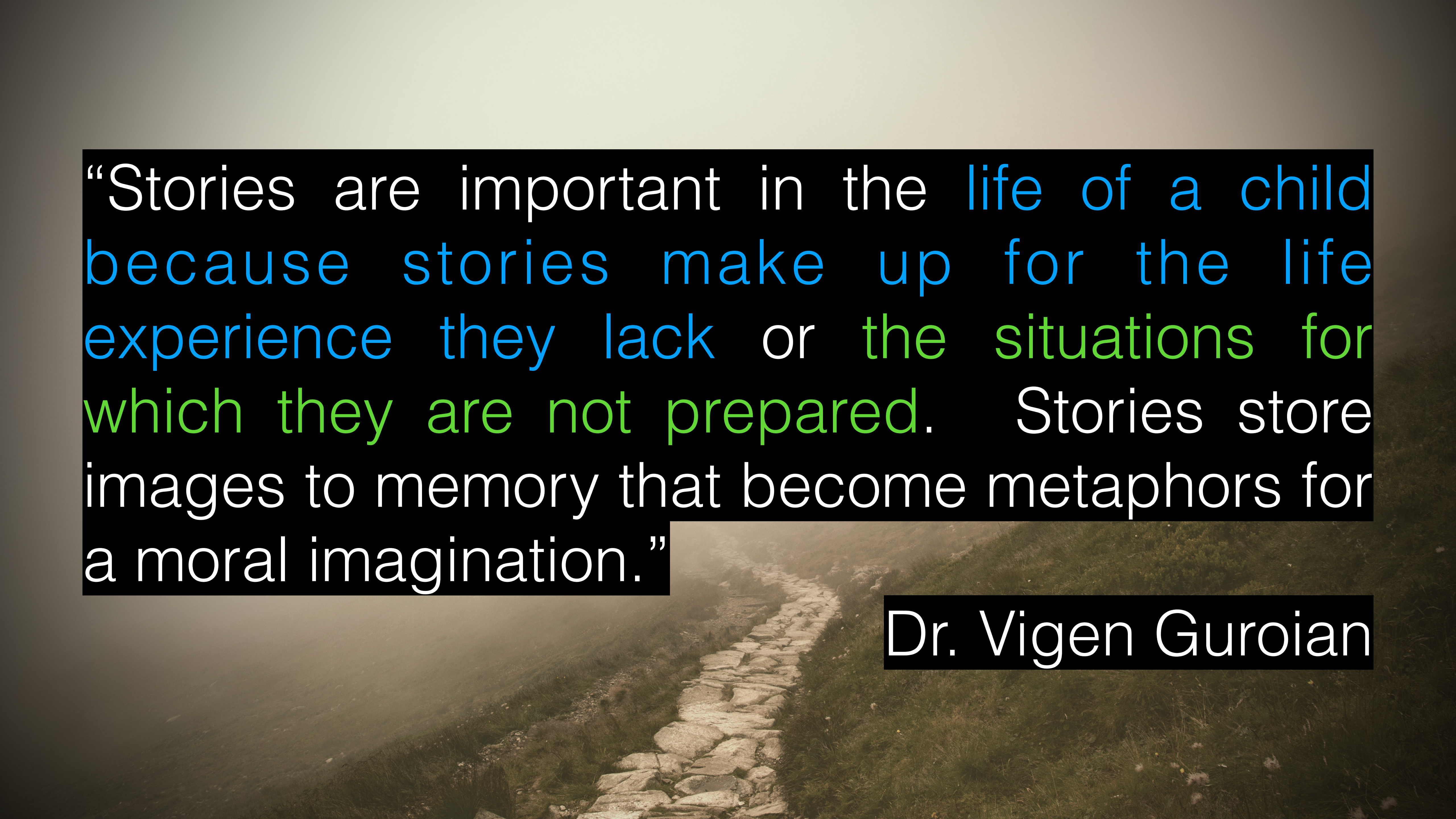
“[The child] depends upon his parents; it rests with them to initiate the thoughts he shall think, the desires he shall cherish, the feelings he shall allow. Only to initiate; no more is permitted to them; but from this initiation will result the habits of thought and feeling which govern the man - his *character*, that is to say.”

vol.1, p.109



We had been
soaking in
stories



A stone path leads through a misty, grassy landscape. The path is made of irregular stones and is flanked by green grass. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with rolling hills and a light sky.

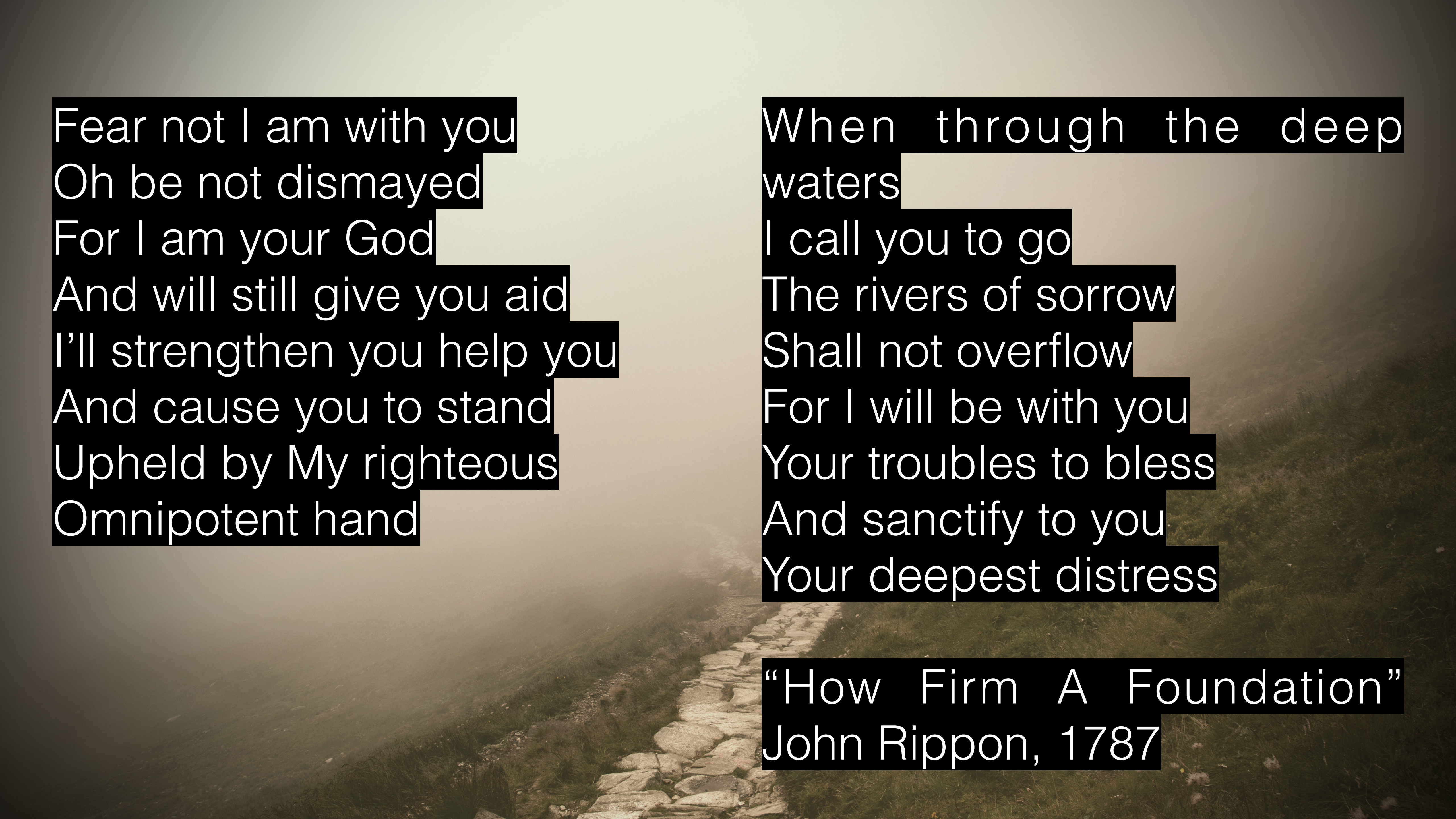
“Stories are important in the life of a child because stories make up for the life experience they lack or the situations for which they are not prepared. Stories store images to memory that become metaphors for a moral imagination.”

Dr. Vigen Guroian

A misty landscape with a stone path leading up a grassy hill. The path is made of irregular stones and leads from the bottom center towards the top center of the image. The hill is covered in green grass and some small white flowers. The background is a soft, hazy mist, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere.

A living education
prepared us.

A living education
held us.

A stone path leads through a misty, grassy landscape. The path is made of irregular stones and is flanked by green grass. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with rolling hills and a misty atmosphere.

Fear not I am with you
Oh be not dismayed
For I am your God
And will still give you aid
I'll strengthen you help you
And cause you to stand
Upheld by My righteous
Omnipotent hand

When through the deep
waters
I call you to go
The rivers of sorrow
Shall not overflow
For I will be with you
Your troubles to bless
And sanctify to you
Your deepest distress

“How Firm A Foundation”
John Rippon, 1787

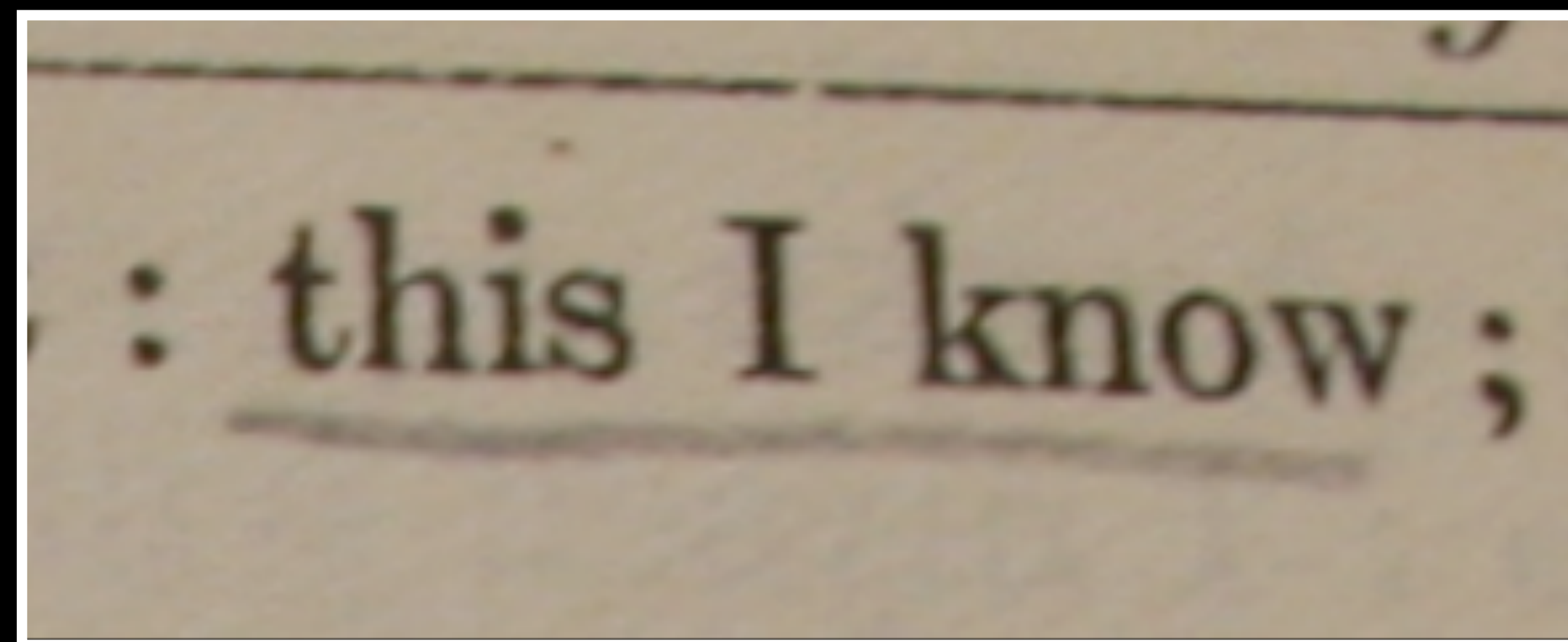
“But the Kingdom of God is coming upon us with power. Let us only break down this foolish barrier of the flesh; let us perceive that our relations with each other are the relations of **spirit with spirit**, and that spoken and written words are no more than the outward and visible signs of **ideas spiritually conveyed**, and how **inevitable, incessant, all encompassing**, becomes the presence of God about us. Faith is, then, **the simple trust of person in Person**.



We realise with fearful joy that He is about our path, and about our bed, and spieth out all our ways—not with the austere eye of a judge, but with the caressing, if critical, glance of a parent. How easy, then, to understand the never-ceasing, ever-inspiring intercourse of the Divine Spirit with the Spirit of man—how, morning by morning, He awakeneth our ear, also; how His inspiration and instruction come in the direction and in the degree, in which the man is capable of receiving them....

This is the faith in which we would bring up our children, this strong, passionate sense of the dear nearness of our God; firm in this conviction, the controversies of the day will interest but not exercise us, for we are on the other side of all doubt once we know Him in whom we have believed.”

vol. 2, pp.134-5



“This I Know” by Gladys Schaefer

<https://childlightusa.wordpress.com/2012/10/21/this-i-know-by-gladys-schaefer/>

"... Whensoever I call upon thee,

then shall mine enemies be put to flight:

this I know; for God is on my side.

In God's word will I rejoice;

in the LORD'S word will I comfort me.

Yea, in God have I put my trust;

I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Unto thee, O God, will I pay my vows;

unto thee will I give thanks.

For thou hast delivered my soul from death,

and my feet from falling,

that I may walk before God in the light of the living."

"... Whensoever I call upon thee,

then shall mine enemies be put to flight:

this I know; for God is on my side.

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For thou hast delivered my soul from death,

and my feet from falling,

that I may walk before God in the light of the living."

“It is, however, with sincere diffidence that I venture to offer the results of this long labour; because I know that in this field there are many labourers far more able and expert than I...”

Charlotte Mason
Preface to the Home Education Series



“... for we are on the
other side of ALL
DOUBT, once we
KNOW HIM in whom
we have believed.”

A stone path leads up a grassy hill under a hazy sky. The path is made of irregular stones and is flanked by green grass. The sky is a mix of light and dark grey, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

“[T]he knowledge of God is the principal knowledge, and the chief end of education.”

Charlotte Mason

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