

Explore the Theme — Gleanings—3

a medley of thoughts in word and image: “in a pregnant space,”
germination as “complete destruction” of a “protective shell”

for other “Explore the Theme” postings visit: <https://www.shcj.org/explore-the-theme>

The Demands of Germination

**“For a seed to achieve its greatest expression,
it must come completely undone.
The shell cracks, its insides come out,
and everything changes.
To someone who doesn’t understand growth,
it would look like complete destruction.”**

It wasn’t possible to find the exact source of this quote which is attributed to Marcel Proust and a few other people, as well. In any case, its accuracy is supported in *Britannica* (online):

“The seeds of many species do not germinate immediately after exposure to conditions generally favourable for plant growth but require a “breaking” of dormancy, which may be associated with change in the seed coats or with the state of the embryo itself Germination in such cases depends upon rotting or abrasion of the seed coat in the soil.” <https://www.britannica.com/science/plant-development/The-breaking-of-dormancy>



Do Not Be Afraid

Patrick van der Vorst, *Christian Art*
<https://www.christian.art/en/daily-gospel-reading/1071>

All of us have the seed of faith buried deep into the soil of our souls. As a seed, it has a layer of protection around it, to protect it from the elements. But once we water that seed, it grows and starts to shoot above ground, being exposed to the rain, the winds, the frosts, etc... all this whilst still being firmly rooted in the ground In my three years of seminary, **studying Theology is what has ripped off the protective shell of that seed.** It has challenged my faith, it has made me think, it helps me evolve, to grow, move and think in a different way.

**What protective shell
might I/we hope to lose?
What newness needs its
time in a pregnant space?**

Conversation Feedback

SHCJ Conversation Group Feedback,
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“Unless a wheat grain ... ” We are in “a pregnant space;” this is the moment of bringing new birth in the Society, another foundational period. **We need to take time to be in the pregnant space and let the vision of a new order emerge to accompany the action we want to take in the Society for the next few years.** The tendency is for one to jump in immediately to want to change, repair or fix things. We all need to stop and think and do some “theological reflection” on our experiences so far and then see what is emerging for us.