

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 9/17/18

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord." - Isa. 1:18



This photo makes me laugh. I took this image at a black bear sanctuary in Minnesota and have no idea what these two bears were doing. They sat facing each other for quite a while before they both wandered their separate ways. What made me laugh was the memories these two evoked from my childhood. As a family, we often visited the small rural community where my father was raised. In those days, the men of the village habitually gathered at the local store front to discuss whatever was currently on their minds. What was on their minds usually centered around politics or sports. Complex world problems and the future of favorite sports teams were often settled in one afternoon. As a boy I was fascinated by the art of conversation that was exhibited at these times. Tempers never flared and voices never rose, but the nuances of debate that were on display were both intricate and well formulated. The men came together as friends, shared their views vigorously, and then left as friends. How times have changed. Meaningful face-to-face dialogue has all but disappeared in an age of social media that has isolated us into warring factions. And if we do dare to converse directly, the one topic we have learned to avoid above all else is religion. Those of us who have embraced Christianity are convinced that our faith can be discussed with civility and reason. The fact that it often is not says more about ourselves than it does about the content of our faith. Christianity is not opposed to reason, it is defensible because the facts upon which it is based are defensible. One does not have to abandon thinking in order to become a Christian. Our faith is an historic faith centered on an historic figure. It is not opposed to science but in fact complements good science. And it can, if our hearts are humbled, be discussed rationally. Come, let us reason together. - John