

# Miracles

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amazements and dramas and blown them out into a billion pieces. Why pick out one experience and call it a miracle when everything is incredible, with the eyes of wonder?

Whitman's close friend, naturalist John Burroughs, carried this understanding of miracle to the next level, the level of science, when he wrote:

"Life began upon the earth not by miracle in the old sense, but by miracle in the new scientific sense—by the immanence and ceaseless activity of the creative energy in the physical world about us—in the sunbeam, in the rains, in the snows, in the air currents, and in the soil underfoot" ("The Phantoms Behind Us," 1912).

Science shows us miracles all around us every day of our lives and Life itself is the greatest miracle. In this view, some-

one who points to a "vision" or an "appearance" or a non-medical "healing" may actually be denigrating a world full of miracles, distracting us from appreciating how strangely beautiful our common lives can be.

I can respect when someone says God did something special for them, but I can't accept that what they believe is more special than any of the wonderful things that happen to us every day. When a person tells me they heard the voice of God in the woods, I have to be honest and say the "voice" (the natural sound) of the owl, the coyote, the wind is much more impressive—it's not about believing, it's about listening.

Why, who makes much of a miracle?

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**Autumn at Lake Logan** COURTESY OF CHRIS HIGHLAND