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For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion



Abstracting Grace - further adventures in Art Theology Part Four

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Blog Series: Re/Kindling Creativity and Imagination

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What color is grace?

Green.

I could say it's black - my mind immediately wanted to say its black - *reasoning* that black is the sum of all the colors. That it is the absence of color. A paradox that fits. But that's my busy mind wanting to be "right", wanting to appear "intelligent", so incredibly "astute."

But my heart, even more quickly, perceives green,

sees green, feels green, tastes green, hears green.

green?

Green has never been my favorite color.
So where is *this* green coming from?

Silence surfaces the answer,

a whisper in my heart:

Hildegard.

"Hildegard of Bingen constantly refers to the fundamental creative power of the life force as 'greenness.' This radiating green vitality (*viriditas*) shines through and from the structures of the world and in the juice of each single organism."

The World of Hildegard of Bingen by, Heinrich Schipperges
Translated by John Cumming
p. 111

In the juice of each single organism

In the juice

juice

j

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j u i c i n e s s

juicy green.

What is the color of grace for you? What is its sound, the sound of grace? It's smell, it's feel and texture, how does it taste? What note is grace?

For me,

It keeps coming up

green.



Angela Hummel
First Green, 2015

*This is where it all began 7 years ago,
the initial idea now marked and scarred
by all I carried it through.*

Reflecting on grace,
green sprung up
out of the ground of my heart.

Pulling it up into consciousness, I remembered Hildegard's greening.

Where had I learned about the idea of greening in Hildegard? I pull the thread.

Schipperges. Two pages in particular, where he had focused on greening.

Two pages which included
one of her poems.

I returned to those two pages.

I keep returning to those two pages.

Do lectio divina with those two pages.

I pour over and over these two pages.

You

are all over those pages.

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