

Aidah Plato

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Glorious Sunrise

“When we step into the family, by the act of being born ... we step into a fairytale.” *Heretics*, Chesterton.

One of my family's favorite activities to do in the evening, after everyone is worn out from a day of work, is watch the show *All Creatures Great and Small*. It is a delightful story of how an eager young vet, James Harriet, comes to the small farming town of Darrowby and establishes a life for himself. Every episode, there is an injured or sick animal which the vets have to help; many of these are births. While watching, I was struck by the love the vets have of the animals, and especially the joy vets and farmers alike feel at the moment of birth.

What great joy for such a small creature! The farmers feel joy and hope because this calf brings hope for his herd's future. James feels the sense of accomplishment in seeing how his work saves the cow and her calf. But more than this, everyone witnessing this birth cannot help but be filled with joy both for the love of the calf, it's cuteness and smallness, but also for the hope it brings, the newness and innocence. This calf is seeing the world for the first time, just like a sunrise first touching the world with its light. Everyone seeing this sunrise feels nothing but joy.

If this much joy and hope can be felt for a little calf, how much more hope and joy can a human baby bring? When you look into the face of a newborn baby, you cannot help but smile. When you encounter this little life, you feel joy because this is something which thinks, feels, and lives, and unlike the baby calf, has the potential to create, to make music, to do art, and to think things greater than itself. But more than

that, humans are born in God's image, unlike any animal, and because of that, they have the potential to have a relationship with the Lord of all creation. This infant is something unlike any other human, for it gazes on the world for the first time like the sun's rays, first bathing a world of darkness in the light of the dawn, still ignorant of its ugliness, shame, sadness, and suffering brought on by our sins.

However, we were all once babies. We too once looked at the world with the eyes of a child, coming into the world of a fairy tale. And when we look at other babies, we can remember that we were once like them, like little suns bathing the world in the morning light. And looking at these little suns we can remember that we too can still look at the world in the newness of life by being made new through the blood of the Lamb. And we can fight for these suns, for when they rise, they bring hope to the world and the sky is painted with beautiful colors.