

“MAPS,” MY MAP

Jesse W. Baker on the Importance of Poetry

During the Apologetics Research and Writing class I took and Dr. Ordway taught, the class was assigned her book *Apologetics and the Christian Imagination*. Though each chapter concluded with a poem, my initial reaction was to skip the poems, as I doubted my ability to comprehend them. I ultimately reconsidered. Dr. Ordway’s poem “Maps” particularly jumped out to me as a piece of writing that was both accessible and powerful. While there were other influences since then, “Maps” stands out as one major reason — if not the major reason — I really discovered the power of poetry. This poem is an expression of gratitude for Dr. Ordway for opening my eyes to a new way of seeing. In a sense, her poem “Maps” was a map for me, leading me into a world of poetry. I followed her sonnet format to help me describe my original misunderstanding of poetry, my later abandonment of it, and my current love for it.

“Maps,” My Map

I once feigned an interest in poetry,
More as an opportunity to write
Down my feelings in some odd looking form,
Never really looking beyond myself.
Later I was focused solely on prose,
Striving for the precise, unambiguous.
Certain this was the only way one should
Seek to awaken a slumbering world.

“Maps” invited me on a different path,
Beyond feelings, and mere statement of fact.
Not just to awaken, but to enchant,
To see heaven in the ordinary.

“Maps”: My first step on a poetic road
Where wonder grows deeper, the farther I go.