

# *Steeple News*

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### What Cannot be Explained Might be a Blessing

On a stormy night, when a wild wind whipped branches off trees and pushed dark clouds across the sky, a frightened little girl cried from her bed for her parents.

And, of course, they came to comfort her and tell her that everything would be O.K. "Don't be afraid. It's only the wind," they said.

But the little girl was still afraid. She knew it was the wind, and it was the wind that frightened her. "What is the wind?" she asked her father.

Her father began to explain it to her, only to discover that he couldn't. The explanations he knew were about atmospheric conditions, none of which she understood, and she remained frightened.

The wind became more violent, rattling the windows and slamming the garden gate. As the young girl continued to seek comfort, her mother pointed out that the wind not only slams the gate and pulls branches off the trees but also, "holds" your kite in the sky. "Would you like to go kite flying tomorrow?"

As the girl continued clinging to her father, not easily persuaded, her mother spoke of the ducks on the pond and the balloon vender in the park where they would go to fly the kite. Slowly, little by little, image by beautiful image, the child followed her mother away from gear and fell asleep.

Many things in life are hard to understand. Sometimes the world is too complex to comprehend, and the explanation more confounding than comforting. We are finite creatures, our understanding founded in the beginning by birth and in the end by death, which is why the infinite eludes us. We are more certain of the effects than the causes. Which is why we can count the broken branches but not explain the wind.

Such limitations and ignorance are at once our burden and our blessing. Because we do not understand, we are frightened, and because we are frightened, we are led to Christ and the comfort of a heavenly home. "Except you be converted," Jesus said, "and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." What we do not know is a necessary part of our conversion; what frightens us also returns us to Christ.

In Jesus, we become little children again, children who may not understand but who are capable of believing in a world whose wind not only slams the gate on a dark night but also pushes the kite against a bright sky.

Rev. Hans Lillejord