

# “Everyday Miracles”

By Rabbi David Wolpe

In the Amidah, the modim prayer seeks in a few words to reawaken our sense of awe. This prayer of thanks expresses gratitude for "the miracles that are daily with us."

Why are we so careless of miracles? Attention is a moral category and to disregard the world is coarse, ungrateful. The cook wishes his dish to be savored, the artist her strokes to be cherished, and God wants us to be alive to what Emerson described as the "unguarded epiphanies of every blessed day."

The scholar Max Kadushin called the Rabbis "normal mystics." They were not lost in visions of another world; they were enchanted by the wonder of this one. They saw God not only in sunsets but in stones, not only in stars but in the functions of the body. Commonplace things are not unmagical, but they are too often unnoticed.

Chesterton spoke for normal mystics everywhere when he wrote, "The startling wetness of water excites and intoxicates me, the fieriness of fire, the steeliness of steel, the unutterable mudiness of mud." Mud a miracle? Watch a child roll in it with delight and wonder. Then return to the modim prayer and realize that the only limit to the miraculous in this world is the limit of our awareness.