

Radiance

By Didi Marañon

You are our glory and joy! (1 Thessalonians 2:20)

The thing about “inner” beauty is that it doesn’t remain inside.

Theologian Fr Thomas Dubay writes, “Radiance of the inner being is the chief element in the beautiful.” When we talk about radiance, we talk about possessing something within that is emitted outside. It is otherwise known as a glow, a brilliance. It shines!

Consider a light bulb enclosed in a lampshade. When the bulb emits lights, it is seen through the illuminated lampshade. There is radiance.

The same applies to the “*hidden character of the heart*” or the beauty inside. A beautiful person is one who is, first of all, beautiful inside. Evidently, this beauty is perceived on the outside as well. Author Josef Pieper noted that beauty is “*the glow of the true and good irradiating from every ordered state of being, and not in the patent significance of immediate sensual appeal.*” Hence, our emphasis on cultivating inner beauty more than anything else. And the best way to do this is to stay close to the “*original source of beauty*” (Wisdom 13:3), the Lord Himself.

Lord, You are my glory and joy! Fill me now with Your light so that I may radiate this same light to others. Amen.

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