

Lent, Seeds, Transformation and Spring



Lent can be a true path to personal transformation.

Transformation takes time.

We always want to rush personal renewal
without the necessary discipline of time.

The metaphor of a planted bulb or seed helps us
to slow down the process.



And so today we plant these bulbs at the beginning of the Lenten season
to remind ourselves that to be transformed takes time and pain.

While we wait for the plant to grow and blossom,
we ought to take time to reflect on the lessons
that the planted bulbs give us.



The first lesson is that bulbs and seeds require
a rich, healthy environment in which to grow.

This applies to our own life and our community life as well.
Are we living healthy, personal lives and a rich community life?

Do we have the sun of comfort and security?

The rain of challenge and inspiration?

The rich nutrients of learning and service?

Without such an environment,
transformation is stagnant, stunted and maybe dead!



The second lesson is that bulbs and seeds take time to sprout in their own time.

Shouting at them to grow is preposterous!

Bulbs like us require time to grow.

We can't rush the process despite our cultural desire for instant growth.

Patience is the key ingredient
for personal and community transformational growth.



The third lesson to remember that when you plant many bulbs or seeds, there will be diversity in the rate of growth.

Some sprout immediately
while the late sprouters are usually the early bloomers!
Growth is rarely even and is usually chaotic!
The bulbs and seeds teach us that to mature in different ways
and at different times is the only true normal!



The fourth lesson is that a bulb and a seed go through distinct stages in the growth process.

The stages are marked by unique characteristics and are a measure of the health and well-being of the plant at any given time.
Our spiritual and personal transformation progresses the same way.

We move through ages and stages
as we grow from seed to sapling to fruit-bearing trees.

The fifth lesson is that each bulb and seed is the product of previous generations and contains within it all the genetic code for the future.



Seeds are filled with the information that yield transformation!

The God self is what we possess within us.
This mystery of God within has been passed down from previous generations and holds for us transformative power.



When we give ourselves the time to grow,
we unleash this inner God power that ultimately allows us to be transformed into another Christ.

The sixth lesson is that bulbs and seeds have a purpose larger than themselves.

Growth is a means to an end.
Unless bulbs and seeds give rise to new bulbs and seeds
They fail to fulfill their purpose.
Our transformation never happens for its own sake.



Transformation leads us to a new place.
Seeds are judged on the fruit they bear.
Transformation leads to a new behavior if it is healthy.
We transform for a reason and
that reason is much larger
than any individual needs.

