

A Teaching from a Newborn Baby

This story comes from Rachel Naomi Remen.

A doctor was working in an emergency room and heard that a very pregnant woman was coming to the hospital in an ambulance. As she was being taken out of the ambulance it was clear that the baby was going to be born right there in the parking lot. He reassured the mother that he had delivered hundreds of babies before and then delivered the baby, and it was a routine birth.

After he cut the umbilical cord and was suctioning the baby, the baby looked right at him.

He was overwhelmed at the experience.

He said that he realized that he was the first human this baby had ever seen.

The power of that experience stayed with him and puzzled to make sense of the experience.

Several days later he realized that the most powerful emotion he still felt was one of gratitude—to have had that experience.

He noted that he had delivered hundreds of babies as a doctor but never as a human.

The opportunity had probably been there in many of those other births, but he had missed it.

He wondered how many other such opportunities he had missed in his life.

The response from within was quick: “lots!”

The experience changed his life because he began to look for and notice so many of those opportunities every day—the clouds in the sky, a tree, a flower, a father and young daughter walking hand in hand....