

# A Knowing That Unifies

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 [wccm.org/weekly-readings/a-knowing-that-unifies](https://wccm.org/weekly-readings/a-knowing-that-unifies)

14 May 2021

From Laurence Freeman OSB, “Letter Four,” *THE WEB OF SILENCE* (London: Dartman, Longman & Todd, 1996), pp. 44-45.

Meditation is not information technology. It is about knowledge that redeems, pure consciousness—knowing, not merely knowing about. Meditation does not increase our funds of information. In fact we turn away from our usual information-gathering and sorting as we turn to a knowledge that is not quantifiable, a knowing that unifies rather than analyzes. [ . . . ] This redemptive and recreative knowledge is the wisdom our age lacks. We can recognize it and discriminate between it and its counterfeits because it neither claims nor parades any possessive pronoun. [ . . . ] No one claims it as their own. It is the consciousness of the Holy Spirit and therefore it is the womb of all truly loving action. In the face of the most disheartening tragedy, it is as close to us as we are to our true selves.

After meditation: “The Vulture’s Wings” by Mary Oliver in *BLUE HORSES* (New York: Penguin, 2014), pp. 45-6.

## The Vulture’s Wings

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The vulture’s  
wings are  
black death  
color but  
the underwings  
as sunlight  
flushes into  
the feathers  
are bright  
are swamped  
with light.  
Just something  
explainable by

the sun's  
angle yet  
I keep  
looking I  
keep wondering  
standing so  
far below  
these high  
floating birds  
could this  
as most  
things do  
be offering  
something for  
us to  
think about  
seriously?

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