

The Velveteen Rabbit



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

God has filled every culture with an abundance of “openings,” as it were, where the truth is constantly passing through. They are the persistent “intersections” with the truth.

Believers possess an insight to locate these “portals.” As Paul knew well, these “entry points” for the truth are often found in the artistic parts of culture. Paul understood this when he quoted a Greek poet in his message on Mars’ Hill:

As certain also of your own poets have said, “For we are also His offspring” (Acts 17:28).

I received an email from a very precious brother, J.D. Fine, of Calhoun, GA. He, as Paul, is an interpreter of culture. He sent a selection from Margery Williams’ 1922 classic children’s story, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Here is what he wrote and quoted.

This is how I feel in my walk with the Lord (*The Velveteen Rabbit* quote):

“Real isn’t how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It’s a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.”

“Does it hurt?” asked the Rabbit.

“Sometimes,” said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. “When you are Real you don’t mind being hurt.”

“Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,” he asked, “or bit by bit?”

“It doesn’t happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That’s why it doesn’t happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are Real you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand.”

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