**A Closer Look**

By Joyce Rupp

If you look at a sunset, you might see only the disappearance of daylight.

R: If you look beneath, you may see darkness opening the splendor of stars.

If you look at illness and disease, you might see only physical diminishment.

R: If you look beneath, you may see it as a teacher bringing you vital wisdom.

If you look at a broken relationship, you might see only a harsh ending.

R: If you look beneath, you may see the courageous seeds of new growth.

If you look at lost dreams, you might see only disappointment and doubt.

R: If you look beneath, you may see the stuff that new dreams contain.

If you look at the death of a loved one, you might see only pervasive sorrow.

R: If you look beneath, you may see that love lives on in the heart.

If you look at the planet’s pain, and creatures’ woe, you might see only despair.

R: If you look beneath, you may see hope woven in the compassionate care of many.

If you look at yourself, you might see only tarnished unfinishedness.

R: If you look beneath, you may see your basic goodness shining there.

If you look for the Divine, you might see mostly unresolved questions.

R: If you look beneath, you may be astounded at the availability of Divine love.

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