

An Excerpt from *The Secret Garden*
in *Gold in Your Memories* by Macrina Wiederkehr

When Lord Craven's wife died, he locked himself in the walled fortress of his pain. In a sense he died with her, refusing to receive life from anyone including his young son, Colin. Nothing seemed strong enough or soft enough to break the walls of his self-made prison. One day, however, the magic that waits in each of us found him slightly open. The passage about his awakening is worth our reflection as we consider the gold our own memories (The Gold in Your Memories, Macrina Wiederkehr p. 25)

"He sat and gazed at the sunlit water and his eyes began to see things growing at its edge. There was one lovely mass of blue forget-me-nots growing so close to the stream that its leaves were wet and at these he found himself looking as he remembered he had looked at such things years ago. He was actually thinking tenderly how lovely it was and what wonders of blue its hundreds of little blossoms were. He did not know that just that simple thought was slowly filling his mind - filling and filling it until other things were softly pushed aside. It was as if a sweet clear spring had begun to rise in a stagnant pool and had risen and risen until at last it swept the dark water away...the valley seemed to grow quieter and quieter as he stared at the bright delicate blueness...at last he moved as if he were awakening and he got up slowly and stood on the moss carpet, drawing a long, deep, soft breath...Something seemed to have been unbound and released in him, very quietly.

"What is it?" he said, almost in a whisper, and he passed his hand over his forehead. "I almost feel as if I were alive."