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Next to the Fire and Beneath the Stars

Josh Smith

Have you ever slept outside, next to the fire, underneath the trees, seeing their leaves outlined against the faint light of the star speckled sky? Have you sat there, watching the blue and yellow flames dance sporadically along the logs, while underneath the embers and coals glow red and orange, like bright sparking mirrors of the stars in the night sky above? Have you laid there on the ground in your warm cozy sleeping bag and looked up at the constellations formed by the thousands, the millions of cold, silvery-white diamonds that sparkle and twinkle like ice crystals on a dark blue cloth which has been left out in the early morning dew. Have you ever fallen asleep listening to the sound of crackling and sparking as the embers slowly burn themselves into ashes? Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night and seen the trees and grassy field around you bathed in silvery moonlight? Have you marveled at the brightness that the full moon lends to the night, creating moon shadows behind every blade of grass and illuminating every leaf on the trees above you. Have you ever seen any of these sights and wondered about their creator? Have you looked up at the countless stars and thought about, even briefly considered for a second, how vast and amazingly huge God must be? Have you ever looked up at the full moon, seen the pits and craters pockmarked across its surface from asteroids, and thought about all the processes that had to be put into place, all the events that had to happen for you to enjoy the bright, silvery glow of a moonlit night? And have you then thought about the fact that God put it all in motion? If not, you should. You should sleep out under the stars and watch them as they twinkle all through the night. You should lie down next to the dying fire and watch as the coals and embers happily pop and spark and glow beside you. You should marvel in the splendor of a moonlit midnight. You should do these things and be constantly reminded of God, who made them all possible, and who made you with just as much care.