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**Not So Wonderful is what is Wonderful**  
**by David M. Valadez**

Deshi 1: Sensei, when you move, it is so grounded, so fluid, so centered. It is truly wonderful.

Sensei: You reminded me of a quote I just heard – it was attributed to Michelangelo. The quote went something like this: “If you knew the time it took me to gain mastery, you would not think it so wonderful.” If you knew the amount of work behind such movement, you would not think it so wonderful.

Deshi 2: Ah, but Sensei that is what is truly wonderful: How much work has been done. That work is only surpassed in wonder by the amount of dedication, endurance, suffering, and uniqueness that lies behind it in support. How many of us can do so much work? That is what is wonderful, all that comes out in the movement, if one has eyes to see it.

Sensei: Then “wonder” must be something for the observer. For the person doing the action, there are only things like dedication and endurance.