



Homing Pigeon

The rock dove has the ability to get back
To its home from away – it has the knack,
A fact that's become the stuff of legend,
Finding its way – it's homeward destined.

This is done somehow by magnetoreception,
It's an amazing type of innate perception,
So far explanation eludes scientific description,
Are metaphysics needed for this decryption?

My first theory is that the feathers make a compass,
With the Earth's poles they assume a oneness,
The feathers align through internal messages,
And into the brain pop map-like images.

The second theory involves body chemistry,
And it might, in fact, seem a bit like wizardry,
Earth magnetism changes receptor proteins,
That talk to the eye, straight from the genes.

The third theory involves google maps,
Installed in their head when taking naps,
On release a destination is typed in,
And magically they show up in their home bin.

Personally, I like the google map theory,
It makes me smile, makes me cheery,
For the other methods seem so unbelievable,
They are hard to imagine, not really conceivable.

The truth is that magnetism is somehow involved,
It's the way that this bird and others evolved,
Somehow the skill was passed down through genes,
And they became message-carrying machines.

Many Earth creatures have homing ability,
How else to explain the migration's agility?
Earth Church has developed surprise on surprise,
It's on us to ensure these surprises survive.

So welcome to Earth Church,
Pull yourself up a pew,
And perhaps a message
Will be flown to you.