

August 1, 2025

Daily Reflections



REVERIE

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Profound love demands a deep connection and out of this develops reverence for the mystery of life. It brings us close to all beings.”

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Reflection

Trying to get organized recently, I purchased a series of file folders. One set incorporated classic Japanese woodblock prints. The images were familiar to me: dramatic seas with huge waves, cherry blossoms in the foreground of a landscape, Mt. Fuji dominating the backgrounds, and chickens. The artist I discovered in researching this reflection was Katsushika Hokusai, who was known for his studies of Mt. Fuji. Of course, many of the file folders included images of Mt. Fuji and seeing the depicted prominence transported me back

sixty-five years to my childhood in Japan.

As shared in earlier reflections, my family lived in what is now Nagai Heights, located on the Miura Peninsula west of Yokosuka. We overlooked Sagami Bay and from our backyard and across the water, Mt. Fuji stood like a beacon. While a composite volcano like Mt. St. Helens in Washington state, Mt. Fuji is very symmetrical and smooth. The tallest mountain in Japan, it dominates the skyline, a beautiful gift of creation. Shinto tradition holds the mountain as sacred, and it has a significant place in the Shinto cosmology.

Our environment helps establish how we conceive and create sacred places. We are connected to place and all of creation in ways that are both primal and transcendent. Sacred spaces hold meaning and evoke prominent images in our mind's eye and memories. There is awe and wonder in the fact that we, as humankind, share a common ancestry melded by the holy sparks of creation.

Even though my cultural and religious background was different from my Japanese hosts, suffice to say that every day when I looked across the water and glimpsed Fujisan, I was amazed at her form, beauty, balance and symmetry, and instinctively knew I was viewing something extraordinary, a special gift of creation. Oh, the blessing of remembering.



"Koshu Kajikazawa by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) a traditional Japanese Ukiyo-e style illustration of a fisherman inland fishing with Mount Fuji in the background. Digitally enhanced from our own original edition." by Free Public Domain Illustrations by rawpixel is licensed under CC BY 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

- What are some of the sacred memories that have glimmered for you recently?
 - How have you encountered the Sacred in remembering?
 - What were the offerings of that reverie?
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