

September 24, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

GOOD GRIEF

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"Even when life challenges us, it is a gift beyond all measure."

PARKER PALMER

Reflection

August was a strange and trying month in my household. It started with a simple drip under the sink. The plumber came, did a quick repair, the plumber left. Another drip in a different location, this time a puddle of water -- albeit thankfully contained to only a small portion of the floor. Once again, the plumber came, and this time explored the crawl space under the house. Nothing under the drip area, but another problem was found. A service date was scheduled, the under-sink problem repaired, and once again, the flooding was quelled.

The following morning, I checked under the sink, things looked dry, and I

began my morning routine. As I was doing something in the back of the house, I heard what sounded like a balloon popping. I couldn't locate the source of the sound and so continued with feeding the cat his breakfast. I started to rinse his bowl, and suddenly, the water just stopped. I played with the faucet handle, no water. I checked both bathroom sinks, the same situation, and the toilets, only one flush and looked rather odd. Proceeding outside, the faucets produced water, being on a separate system than the house. Hence, the plumber was contacted with fervor.

Moving through the house with precision and care, our plumber was reticent to identify the problem until he could confirm the issue. Finally, the diagnosis: the bladder in the R/O system had burst. What a plumber's nightmare, there were minuscule little pellets of plastic throughout the water line and every pipe had to be snaked and cleared. The plumber, marvelously patient, uncluttered the infrastructure and once again, water was running. However, we needed to disconnect and replace the R/O system, and use bottled water until the repair was completed.

The whole thing was exhausting and for awhile I had a glimpse of what things might have been like for Job. While reflecting on the misery of it all, I was prompted to recall traveling across the Sahara, and rolling into a town in Niger. Thinking back, it had been important that our trekkers and truck arrive by 11 a.m. because that was when the water was turned on at the community faucet. When we drove up, a crowd had already lined up holding various vessels to collect and carry water back to their homes. That memory opened my heart to gratitude for the absolute gift and privilege of accessible and clean running water. Then there is the infinite talent of a good plumber. Can I have an Amen?



Chrome Pipe Lines
By Jiawei Cui

For Pondering

Consider a time where you were challenged by unexpected and aggravating circumstances.

- What were the challenges?
 - What were the unanticipated gifts?
 - Where was God in that moment of challenge?
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For Prayer

*Thank you, Giver of life,
for the gift of aggravations and for the challenges they bring.
Please open my heart to you in these moments,
and help me find the gifts you offer along the way.
Amen.*

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