

August 26, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

ALL MANNER OF THINGS

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Reflection

As you might recall from prior reflections, last year my front yard was landscaped anew with less grass, more drought tolerant plants, and two new trees for shade and helping to oxygenate the planet. One of the new trees, properly named Clarice, is a Crepe Myrtle. This type of tree in its many varieties is ubiquitous throughout Southern California and flowers beautifully during the summer. The tree adorning my front yard blooms a brilliant red and was beginning to flower when planted in July last year.

This year, July came and went and no flowers; I found myself quite anxious about the state of the tree. I inspected it numerous times, wondered if I should

have pruned or done something different with the tree, and spoke with the gardener. He did not seem too worried about it, but I continued to routinely check out the tree. Were the leaves too dry, did it appear healthy? They seemed fine and after all the rain we had had over the winter and spring, it had to have had enough of a deep watering. I started inspecting the other Crepe Myrtles in the neighborhood; some were blooming, some were not. I finally concluded I just had to wait. Lo and behold, one day, a small bouquet of red florets popped out toward the center of the tree. By mid-August, the entire tree was in bloom.

All of this arboreal “sturm und drang” brought to mind the spiritual journey. We can do the groundwork of a regular prayer practice, expand our God awareness through reflection, contemplation, and formation, as well as relationships, community, and “feet on the ground” living of a life consistent with the theological compass we follow. And, sometimes, we just need to wait for the flowering to happen. Ah, but when those movements of grace happen, sometimes out of nowhere, what a beautiful thing it is.



Clarice the Crepe Myrtle
By Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- Has there been a time where you have been stuck spiritually and then suddenly experienced a shift?

- What were the fruits of that experience?
 - How did God help you along the way?
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For Prayer

Praying with Julian

*God, of thy goodness, give me Thyself;
for Thou art enough for me,
and I can ask for nothing less
that can be full honor to Thee.
And if I ask anything that is less,
ever shall I be in want,
for only in Thee have I all.*

JULIAN OF NORWICH

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