

September 5, 2025

Daily Reflections



MORAL BEAUTY

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“A spontaneous act of generosity, performed with unselfish grace is an example of moral beauty, as are certain acts of courage; genuine modesty is a possible example, as is selfless love...”

YI FU TUAN, *PASSING STRANGE AND WONDERFUL*

Reflection

Of all the places I have had an opportunity to visit and explore around the world, the United States wasn't one of them. I had always wanted to see the Grand Canyon. Actually, my dream was to raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon but at age 65, I had to be more realistic in my aspirations. Apparently, I had mentioned my desire to see this amazing natural wonder so many times, a good friend, perhaps tired of hearing me talk about it, made it

her mission to ensure I finally got there.

Here's the extraordinary part of the story. My friend had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing an integrated and experimental chemotherapy. Like most people undergoing such treatment, she had good and bad days. She was within a year of dying and suffered with the pain of metastasis. Our planning for the adventure took coordination of treatment and class schedules, and careful consideration of the driving and logistical elements of the excursion. My friend was a consummate planner, so the timing and details of the trip was quite rich with vision and opportunity.

We decided that Sedona would be our point of excursion and stopped off in Havasu both coming and going to help soften the journey. Driving down Oak Creek Canyon into Sedona is breathtaking and the first afternoon we settled in and had a bite to eat. The next day we visited Jerome and toured around Sedona on the way back. As the following day approached, the day we were driving to the Grand Canyon, my excitement was palpable.

The day had come and we headed north in the morning after breakfast. As we entered the National Park, I could hardly contain myself. We trolleyed around from place to place trying to capture the beauty of the spectacle with photos. The colors, the play of light and shadow, the layers of vistas, the clouds against a cerulean blue sky -- how can one capture the splendor of such a blessed place?

Following our explorations, we stopped at a café and had a meal. In the background young people were talking excitedly about making it down and up the canyon in a day. Looking over at my friend who had made this glorious adventure possible, I could see that she was tired and probably in pain but also deeply satisfied with helping to make my dream come true. Of blessed memory.



Grand Canyon
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- When have you witnessed or experienced moral beauty?
 - Where did God show up in these moments?
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For Prayer

*Generous God,
thank you for the people we encounter with moral beauty.
They offer selfless love and amazing generosity and help to enrich our lives.
May we be present to gifts of moral beauty in our lives.*

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