

September 3, 2025

Daily Reflections



CONVENTUAL ENDUEMENT

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Water is the driving force of all nature.”

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Reflection

During my college years, I frequently went camping as a member of the Geography Club. There were many occasions to share around a campfire at night. I recall one conversation vividly with a classmate who was a Viet Nam War vet. We were discussing the in and outs of camping in the wild for extensive periods of time and he offered his knowledge about surviving in the field. He did this in part to help our group to become more seasoned campers, as we often stayed at primitive sites. The thing he stressed over and over again was to have enough water, not only to drink, but to also be able to perform

routine hygiene. He noted in particular, keeping your feet clean and frequently changing to clean socks was important to health and mobility. Made sense to me.

From the pragmatic to the sublime: water is regarded across religious traditions as symbolically and ritualistically purifying and healing. Some waters are considered sacred. From baptism to ritual cleansing or purification rites, water features significantly in liturgical and spiritual practices. As my step-dad would have said, “There’s probably a good reason for that, kid.”

Water is life-giving. It regulates, cleanses, and helps to function the body human, whether individually or communally. A well-structured water delivery system allows people to congregate in cities and towns. Water systems have provided transportation and energy for centuries. Consider the importance of water to medical procedures and recovery. Certainly the experience of the recent pandemic has made us all aware of the importance of washing our hands regularly.

Presently, in the United States, almost 74 million people are living in areas impacted by drought. Looking at a map of the contiguous U.S., it’s not only the western part of the country being affected. Thirty-two of the fifty states are experiencing some level of drought. (NOAA) This circumstance isn’t exclusive to the United States; drought is a global issue.

In the book of Genesis, God gives humankind dominion over the earth and all living things, plant and animal. The implication is primacy over all of creation and, at the same time, the moral and ethical weight of dominion is stewardship. Water is necessary to the life of all living things. As the growing extent of global warming and resultant environmental crises unfold, how are we called to not only steward but to innovate a response to help repair and sustain the gift of creation?



Multnomah Falls
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- What does water symbolize for you?
 - How has water benefited your quality of life and provided refreshment?
 - When has water contributed to your spiritual well-being?
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For Prayer

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is....*

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