

September 1, 2025

Daily Reflections



AWAKEN

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Faith strips the mask from the world and reveals God in everything.”

ST. CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

Reflection

At the beginning of the North Africa adventure in 1978, things were a bit rocky with an eleven-hour wait at LAX for our flight to Paris, where we would connect for our expedition to Casablanca. After an overnight stay in Paris, we finally arrived to once again wait at the airport in Casablanca. Our traveling group was sequestered in a room while our passports were inspected and processed. We were offered exceptional hospitality with a meal that was delicious. Alas, we lingered for hours awaiting the transportation that would take us to Tangier, where we would stay for three days before heading over the Atlas Mountains to

our hop-off point into the Sahara, the city of Oujda.

On arriving in Tangier, one could not help but notice the hustle and bustle of the city. Our hotel was near the Medina and it was very active with pedestrian traffic. The city has a reputation for intrigue and spy craft, and is imprinted with the influences of many cultures. It certainly invites the imagination to travel to many places.

Getting settled into my room the first day, a rainy and cold one, all of a sudden business was halted by the melodic call to prayer. The *Adhan*, recited five times a day, is both a statement of faith and a call to focus on God through prayer and in all aspects of life. The Grand Mosque was nearby so the *Adhan* was clarion and echoed down to my bones. While there is some getting used to the striking melody, the *Adhan* always caught my attention as it no doubt was intended to do.

As our traveling party moved from Morocco into Algeria and then Niger, there was constancy in the call to prayer from town to town. There were distinctions among the locations with larger settlements using recordings instead of a live *muezzin* (announcer, proclaimer). One city that stands out in my memory is Ghardaia located almost in the center of Algeria. An ancient city of the Mozabites, Berber Muslims who follow the Ibadi Muslim tradition, it has a unique architecture that conforms to the area geography of hilly terrain. The Grand Mosque sits atop a prominence and is more consistent with a Sudanese style of mosque resembling a sandstone-colored obelisk. We rolled into town just in time to hear the afternoon *Adhan*. The city paused for prayer as we stopped in place to rest for a moment.

Calls to prayer cross traditions. Whether ringing bells, a *shofar* sounded or the *Adhan*, we are brought to awareness that God is present in our lives and that the time has come for prayer, a uniting with and thanking the One that surpasses all understanding. God is great, God is good, let us pray.



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For Pondering

- What are the calls of prayer in your tradition?
 - How are you invited to respond to that call?
-

For Prayer

One Song

*The differences are just illusion and vanity.
Sunlight looks different on this wall
than it does on this wall,
and a whole lot different
on this wall over here,
but it is still sunlight.*

*We have borrowed these clothes,
these time and space personalities,
from a light,*

*and, when we praise,
we put it back in.*

*Just as one man can be a father to you
brother to another and uncle to yet another,
what you are searching for has many names
but one existence.*

*Stop looking for one of the names.
Move beyond attachment to names.
Every war and conflict between human beings*

*has happened because of some disagreement about
the names.*

*It's such unnecessary foolishness
because just beyond the arguing,
where we are all one people,
there is a long table of companionship
beautifully set
and just waiting for us to sit down.*

JALAL AD-DIN MUHAMMAD RUMI

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