

February 26, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

WONDER GAZE

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Gazing with wonder at all creation entails seeing everyday things with appreciative eyes...”

Wonder is radical amazement over the very existence of the material universe.”

WILKIE AU & NOREEN CANNON AU, THE GRATEFUL HEART: LIVING THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE, CHAPTER 6

Reflection

The tangerine tree in my backyard has been quite prolific this year, and sadly she will be trimmed very soon. The fruit can be traced to Japan and so the tree is aptly named Tamiko -- one interpretation is “child of many beauties.” (Wikipedia) She lives into her name and holds a prominent viewing place from

the living room window.

When I look at Tamiko, I cannot help but think of my time living in Japan as a child, where tangerines were often offered as gifts during the winter and early spring season. The area where we lived, Nagai Heights, was surrounded by fields of watermelons and other delectables with an occasional tangerine tree skirting the access paths.

At a village close to the housing area, bands of curious Navy brats would prowl the small streets, often headed toward the beach to explore the coastline. Along the thoroughfares were vendors selling fresh vegetables, fruits, fish, flowers, and assortments of treats such as *osembe* (rice crackers) or candy. During the winter months, gorgeously presented tangerines were featured, often perched in white paper ready to gift.

Gazing at Tamiko, as my mind explores the past in conjunction with the present, she is wearing a brightly colored kimono, powder blue with a green and orange floral design. She dances gracefully in the wind, following the movement of the sun and winds. Flexibly leaning into each season, one of God's great treasures delights the soul.



Tamiko
Photo by Julie Mus sché

For Pondering

An invitation: take a moment of your day to gaze in wonder at the world around you.

Where does your imagination take you? What gifts of creation spark wonder and awe within you?

For Prayer

Prayer from the Canticle of the Sun

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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