

A Mid-day Meditation

From

Sue's Perspective

"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid"

- Frederick Buechner

Floating through space in a specific orbit around the sun is our planet, Earth. Earth makes its trip around the sun approximately once every 365 days while rotating on its axis. I could attempt to get deeper into the science of how our planet behaves in the scheme of things universal but, in all honesty, I would likely get confused, say something incorrect and the scientists out there would be either offended or laugh themselves silly at me. The inhabitants of the Earth, both human and non-human have been here for Millenia and over the course of those years, things have changed, either subtly or drastically. The world is a collection of many, many things – many countries, many languages, many people, many species of animals, birds, insects, fish, bacteria and viruses. Each of the many occupants of the world is unique unto itself however much it resembles others in its species. These, and a great many other things, are what make the world what it is...

"...Here is the world..."

In the past, myriad events have happened which can be labelled as beautiful. Myriad events have happened that can be labelled as terrible. Some things that were considered beautiful at their discovery soon turned terrible as they were misused – the discovery of atomic energy comes to mind. What is beautiful to one person may well be terrible for another. Regardless, we cannot hide from the fact that both beautiful and terrible things happen in our world. How we respond to both the beauty and the terror says a great deal about us as people...

"...Beautiful and terrible things will happen..."

For some reason beyond my understanding, we hear more about the terrible things in the world than we do about the beautiful things in the world (some say those kinds of headlines sell more papers). Our first instinct when tragedy strikes is to be fearful. Do you recall the events of September 11, 2001? Do you recall the response by the leaders of the world? Some spoke threats to other nations. Some invoked a sense of fear and hatred against others that remain with us to this day. The voices of unreason shouted the voices of reason. Now when we find ourselves in a situation that is beyond our control, the first thing that we do is respond with fear. When are we going to learn to respond with faith first? Are we so unsure of our faith in God that we need to be captive to fear? During these terrible times in our world, we need to be cautious, responsible, logically thinking people. There are places in the world where the unreasonable voices are trying to shout the reasonable voices in the name of one's rights. Let your faith lead you in your response to these times. Let your faith be what relieves your fear...

"...Don't be afraid."