

Beauty

"I've found that there is always some beauty left -- in nature, sunshine, freedom, in yourself; these can all help you."

Quote from Ann Frank's Diary

It is impossible for me, despite any darkness nipping away at the edges of my mind and therefor my soul or even the 'interesting' constantly random (I know – that is an oxymoron) neurological disorder induced event, for me not to be in absolute awe, every time I hit the trail.

The first quote in this missive is persistent in my brain this week, popping into my head many times a day. I find myself giving only cursory glance at news, unless there is a headline detailing a positive story, like one today about Marygrove College in Detroit. Quoted from the Free Press...*Located on a sprawling 53-acre site at McNichols and Livernois in northwest Detroit, Marygrove has storied history and legacy in these parts — starting with its progressive agenda of educating women when the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) opened three decades before it was common or popular. The college later admitted men and did well.* The Free Press details how it is transforming into a vibrant community center. See the full article at <https://www.freep.com/story/money/business/columnists/carol-cain/2022/01/15/marygrove-continues-transformation-new-school-community-support/9185505002/>.

So again today, as I 'prayer walked' my way around the edges of one of the many swamps situated in the Shelda Creek drainage into the great freshwater sea, Michigan, taking the same trail I do every day as part of my physical therapy, I was stunned. The sunlight created stark dark, almost black shadows juxtaposed against the brilliant white of snow cover, from the many hemlocks and white pines. In the snow, on this nine degree moment in 'The Inside', my description of our county many call 'The Little Finger, the sun star fueled billions of diamonds on the white ground, far more perfect than the condensed carbon ones found at great depths of our mother earth, prized by the wealthy.

Again quoted from Ann Frank, *"Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy."*

So my hope holds steadfast. My hope that we will constantly strive to serve and love others, irrespective of what their 'classification' is; race, gender, ideology. My hope is in our Creator in all His Triune-ness, Who blessed me again this morning with the incredible natural beauty of Creation, and the sure conviction that He loves us unconditionally, just as we, being made in the Image and Likeness of our Creator, should love all others, unconditionally.

And so I close with a few more quotes from a fifteen year old Jewish girl written in an attic in Amsterdam, hiding from Nazi German soldiers, from 1942 through 1944...

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out."

Possibly her last written words... *"As I've told you many times, I'm split in two. One side contains my exuberant cheerfulness, my flippancy, **my joy in life** and, above all, my ability to appreciate the lighter side of things."*

And finally the one that says it all...*"I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart."*

Annelies Marie Frank: born 12 June 1929 Frankfurt Germany, died c. February 1945 Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, Nazi Germany.

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