

MM Summer Blue Sheet – From Puget Sound

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Morgan's Moment...

An easy sail today...

first of the season on Say Yay!
seeing whether it all worked.

Light wind under rare blue sky...

heading west toward Olympics
then looking east at Mt Rainier.

I was alone with ashes of my friend...

with a quote his life-mate
sent from Isabel Allende...

"There is no death...

*people die
only when we forget them."*

I'm never assured

by speculations about death
nor was my friend.

I am assured by experience

that those I know and love
are known and loved in me.

We came to anchor (he and I)...

I spread the ashes
right over the anchor.

My photo shows the sailboat

pointing toward the anchor
as boats mostly do.

I am somehow comforted

by the thought of Say Yay
keeping watch.

— Art Morgan

BOOK CORNER

No "summer book" this year, so far.
In fact until this week no reading at all.

I just finished *"Saving Jesus from the Church – How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus"* by Robin Meyers.

Why does it feel like I've read it before? I checked his list of references. I had read most of them.

So what he is saying is not new, but he says it better than many. And it needs saying again.

(One of many other similar books is *"Jesus Against Christianity - Reclaiming the Missing Jesus"* by Jack Nelsen-Pallmeyer, 2001).

There are many who do not affirm the Creeds or the Trinity yet are sincere followers of Jesus. If that is a problem for you these books might help you understand what the fuss is all about.

EXTINCTION

Table talk can get downright philosophical sometimes, especially when abetted with a bit of wine.

One guest proposed that he had reached a "sweet spot" in life where he was comfortably retired and still in good health. We talked about where we thought our "sweet spot" in life was. I think we hoped that we were in it. I asked as a moment man, "Does it get any better than right now?" No one answered.

This led to the proposal that human life was a mere blip on the life-screen of this planet. Of all the species that have evolved over the 3 or so billion years, our span is virtually un-measurable.

The typical species is extinct in 10 million years. Hardly anything worth worrying about during a happy dessert time conversation.

It is realistic but not comforting to realize that 99.9% of all species that ever existed are now extinct. One by one, every day, some species fall off the conveyor belt of life and disappear. In rare cases they turn into fossils. Does anyone find comfort in becoming an old fossil?

Of course I have thought about these things for years, especially while walking on the shell forms of millions of creatures on our beach. The truth is that some of these life forms existed before our human species and will likely continue after.

Enter the theologian — and all who talk about ultimate things and of God. Ask for instance how important is our one little ego in the history of a species destined for extinction? And ask whether there is a chance in a billion that the human species will somehow be an exception to the fact of extinction.

For those who try or claim to fit human history and destiny between Genesis and Revelation, can we cram 3.5 billion years of life on planet earth into that story?

I figured long ago that this was too big for me to comprehend. I also figured that little ol' me (I was about 11 at the time) was part of something grand and wondrous and awesome. I sort of pledged to myself that I would try to be part of the harmony of it all and not mess it up more than I could help. That was my Theology 101.

As for extinction I figured that I had no more to do with that than I had to do with the mystery that I was alive at all. So much for extinction.

— Art Morgan, June 12, 2012

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving on the face of the waters."

(Genesis 1)