

MM Summer Blue Sheet #4 from Puget Sound July 24



Morgan's Moment...

It was like watching a death...
I didn't want to be there
as he climbed and limbs fell.
We called it the Eagle tree...
where the eagle sought refuge
from angry nest-guarding crows.
The tall fir was born in the late 1800's...
already 40 years old
when my grandparents came.
Limbs crashed until the top fell...
and the tree was cut to a stump
from the top down.
It had been in hospice...
watchful waiting for many years
as roots washed away.
Grief is letting go of a beloved...
animate or inanimate
a loss.
It feels selfish to grieve one tree
while forests are burning
or an aging friend is dying.
I can only report that I felt grief
as my 125 year-old friend
crashed to the earth.
— Art Morgan

"I WILL SAVE THE STUMPS..."
the tree guy said. Roots will still help
the bank. Trees will soon grow back.
My mom had laughed at me many years
ago when I apologized for cutting one
of the trees on the property. She could
remember when there were few trees at
all. She knew they would grow back.
The tree guys are telling me the same
thing. Never doubt your mom.

MOMENT REFLECTIONS...

TAKING A RAIN DAY TODAY...hoping those flying lakes
called clouds carry water where it's really needed...

SORT OF ASHAMED... catching myself sorrowing over one
tree while forests burn...bombs and missiles explode to destroy
frightened innocents...children are driven in terror from Central
American homes by uncontrolled gangs fueled by a cocaine
industry that depends on American addictions...and on...and
on...and...

GOOD QUOTE from Wendell Berry in *Christian Century*:
"*We have an economy founded foursquare on the Seven Deadly
Sins. Just go down the list.*" (*Wrath, avarice, sloth, pride, lust, envy,
gluttony*). I did a quick check just be sure my favorite sins were
not on the list.

SPEAKING OF SIN...the subject doesn't worry most people. If
you are among the minority of souls who regularly attend a
liturgical church you may notice that sin is mentioned and that
the Lord's Prayer asks forgiveness for our "trespasses" or
"debts" which we presume means sins. So one can be allowed to
start the week with a clean slate...

NOT TO BE FLIPPANT ABOUT EVIL...the recent *Christian
Century* (read by a select few enlightened souls) has an article
called "*Why we mess things up*". Are there still those who
believe it goes back to the Garden of Eden and Adam's fall...that
God is implicated in a plot that can only be undone with the
sacrificial death of Jesus? If sin or evil has been undone to any
extent in the world, it's hard to see.

EVER HEAR OF A "HABITAT CUT?"I think the chain saw
guys do it so softies like me won't feel guilty about cutting a tree.
Our workers are leaving stumps at every cut. On larger trees it's
a taller stump. They leave a rough stump in place of the usual
flat stump. "For habitat" they say. We like being hospitable to
many critters winged and four-legged and even six-legged that
browse freely across our place. If stumps are another attraction,
all the better. We still have bunks for two-legged guests as well!

A FLEETING THOUGHT...All creatures seek a safe and
welcoming habitat. We flee hostile environments, migrate to
hospitable places. Sometimes we displace others, and sometimes
we get displaced. And sometimes we make room for those
needing a safe place to land. And often a "habitat cut" is an issue
of passionate dispute. Pray for those without a welcoming
habitat. — Art Morgan, July 24, 2014