



## Notes & Quotes from Dawn

February  
2023

*With luck, it might even snow for us.* ~ Haruki Murakami

A friend who dropped by our home recently remarked, as she was noting the new buds on our recently pruned rose bushes, that she loves living in the Bay Area because you can experience winter and spring at the same time. The two photos above were taken February 23. The first photo captures the sight that greeted us looking out east facing windows on the second-story of our home. The photo to the right of that one is a view of the vine entwined around posts on the small balcony just outside a west facing room.

*A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations but look what they can do when they stick together!* ~ unknown.



That same morning, our daughter in Portland, Oregon sent a photo of what greeted them when they awakened — close to 11 inches of snow. The photo sent me back to memories of my no school “snow days” while living in Kansas. Home alone, I could entertain myself watching the magical action of millions of individual snowflakes (long before learning that the likelihood of any two snow crystals being exactly alike is zero) turning the world white as they covered everything. Or, I could bundle up and venture outside. I happily played in the powdery, white substance, falling backwards over and over again onto the ground before moving my arms and legs back and forth to create “snow angels.” I loved trying to catch a snowflake on my tongue, digging down to the harder snow to create small snow balls, throwing them for our German Shepherd to try and catch, etc. If a new snowfall occurred on a weekend my stepmother would make snow ice cream (adding sugar and a touch of vanilla to fresh snow) and my father occasionally helped me build a snowperson (in those days always called a snowman). Decades later, during the 8 months we lived in Switzerland, we marveled at the spectacular beauty of the Alps in winter, as well as the sparkling, frost-covered trees and white-blanketed fields in our immediate view.



## *Epic Winter Storms Spreading Across U.S.!*

Of course, as with nearly everything else, there are definitely opposing views and perspectives regarding snow. Myriad challenges and disastrous consequences can occur when there is too much. Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, and avalanches. They can collapse roofs, down trees and power lines, freeze pipes, and amplify other problems. Melting snow can cause flooding. The list goes on. More than 65 people died in the December blizzards and millions of people are now experiencing record breaking, devastating snow storms, along with below freezing temperatures. As I write, over 100,000 households are without power in California (and thousands more in other states). Areas in Central and southern California are being pummeled with rare heavy rains, blizzard conditions and hurricane force winds . . . and so we always have ample opportunities to offer whatever kind of help we can give to those going through challenging times.

Here's an excerpt from a recent poem by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, "Because"

*So I can't save the world—  
I can't even save myself,  
I can't wrap my arms around  
every frightened child, can't  
foster peace among nations,  
can't bring love to all who  
feel unlovable.  
So I practice opening my heart  
right here in this room and being gentle  
with my insufficiency. I practice  
walking down the street heart first.  
And if it is insufficient to share love,  
I will practice loving anyway.  
I want to converse about truth,  
about trust. I want to invite compassion  
into every interaction.  
One willing heart can't stop a war.  
One willing heart can't feed all the hungry.  
And sometimes, daunted by a task too big,  
I tell myself what's the use of trying?  
But today, the invitation is clear:  
to be ridiculously courageous in love . . .*

*May we be courageous. May we love ourselves and each other ~ Dawn*

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