

11-15-00

Little Things

Everyday life consists of occasional pleasant little things, mostly unimportant and largely forgettable. However, sometimes the insignificant pleasure resonates in such a way that it becomes important enough to be recalled on similar occasions and becomes, momentarily, significant and lovely. Consider such things as an unexpected view of a clear, shining rainbow, a brief, joyous bird song on a spring morning, a mischievous look from an unknown child in a passing car, an unspoken agreement with a spouse The list can continue, each incident perhaps recalling another but different one.

Yesterday morning as I walked across the family room toward the side door, I noticed three raindrops hanging on a narrow crosspiece of the porch screen. It had been raining lightly and very briefly after many days of hoping for rain, but now the sun was shining. Thoughts of gratitude at finally getting some needed rain flashed through my mind as I took one more step toward the porch. The middle droplet of the three hanging on the screen suddenly blazed into a brilliant red jewel, almost blinding in its intensity. My next step extinguished the shining ruby, but one step backward recalled the lovely highlight, only to disappear seconds later, not to be recalled again. I realized I had captured one fortunate second when the sun refracted through the raindrop. It was there once for my pleasure, and it remains in my mind's eye today. The brief thrill couldn't be reproduced, but I can remember it.

As an otherwise ordinary day continued, I was able to enjoy again and again the sudden joy of that raindrop, each time accompanied by the recall of some other happy little thing. I envy poets who could put that moment into words, but the sense and the pleasure of it will join other little things in my mind and come back to me another time. It was a jewel of a moment.