

Personal Reflection – October 6, 2021

Tears of Recognition

This morning at prayer, I said: “Thank you, for always being present here, to me. *Shekinah!* (Hebrew for the felt presence of God.) I filled up with tears of recognition. even as a teenager, I wept when a handsome young lad said, “I love you, Jane”, and as I grew older, when friends and colleagues said, “I love you, Jane.” I filled up with tears of recognition. Recently, I had the joy of a visit from a dear friend – two days of *shekinah* in my little house. Wow!

I look at the word: *re-cognition*. Wordsmith that I am, I dare to translate the Hebrew, from my experience, as *re-affection*. My love of my friend and my awareness of God has at the moment of tears reached a new level, not of cognition but of affection! What a generous gift.

Where do the tears come from! They always surprise me. When I tell long-ago stories here on the back porch to friends, I often fill up with unwonted (not unwanted) tears, and am unable to continue while the tears flow. What a gift!

--Jane Vella