

Thoughts and Smiles – October 30, 2023



Flannery O'Connor was a novelist who excelled in parables. In her short story "**Revelation**," an upstanding Christian woman, Ruby Turpin, and an acne-scarred college girl named Mary Grace meet in a doctor's office. Ruby Turpin chatters away about her great gratitude to God for giving her such a blessed life. While others ignored Ruby or listened politely, Mary Grace was enraged. Finally, no longer able to bear Mrs. Turpin's public "thank you, Jesus," Mary Grace hurled a book at Ruby and then leapt on top of her. Mrs. Turpin was stunned not

only by the physical attack but by the girl's chilling words, "*Go back to hell where you came from, you old wart hog.*" While Ruby was not physically hurt, she could not shake the memory of the girl's hateful words. Why had she, a hardworking, churchgoing Christian, been singled out for this message? There was real trash in that same waiting room who really deserved those words. In her final confrontation with God, Ruby thought that if God liked trash so much, she might join their ranks, quit work, and spend her days lounging around. Ruby could be shiftless like the other trash. The thought of Mary Grace's insult seemed as though it was an insult from God. Anger rose strong and quickly inside of Ruby until she shook her fist to the heavens and shouted out to God, "*Who do you think you are?*"

It was at that point that Ruby Turpin had her "revelation," for as she looked toward the heavens, she seemed to see a whole company of white trash, now clean for the first time, moving toward heaven. There were battalions of freaks and lunatics shouting and clapping and leaping like frogs. And bringing up the end of the procession was a tribe of people whom she recognized at once as those who, like herself and [her husband] Claud, had always had a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right. She leaned forward to observe them closer. They marched behind the others with great dignity, accountable as they had always been for good order, common sense and respectable behaviour. They alone were on key. Yet she could see by their shocked and altered faces that even their virtues were being burned away. Ruby Turpin's encounter with Mary Grace had shattered her vision of God's well-ordered universe and pulled the rug out from under her own secure place in that world. The vision she saw contradicted all of her tidy



expectations. She was a hardworking, decent, Christian woman who had the world and God figured out. Everything was in its place. After her encounter with Mary Grace, however, Ruby Turpin found herself in a very different world, confronted with an unexpected kind of God. As we leave her at the end of "Revelation," stunned and vulnerable, it is unclear how well Ruby will navigate this new terrain. What is clear, however, is that her view of the world has been turned upside down by a parabolic vision of clean trash "rumbling toward heaven."

*From: Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals – Weaving Together the Human and the Divine - --
Herbert Anderson and Edward Foley*

Audio of the whole story:

https://youtu.be/5qjU9JCb_Oc?si=yo6WHrxQChVX-RBq

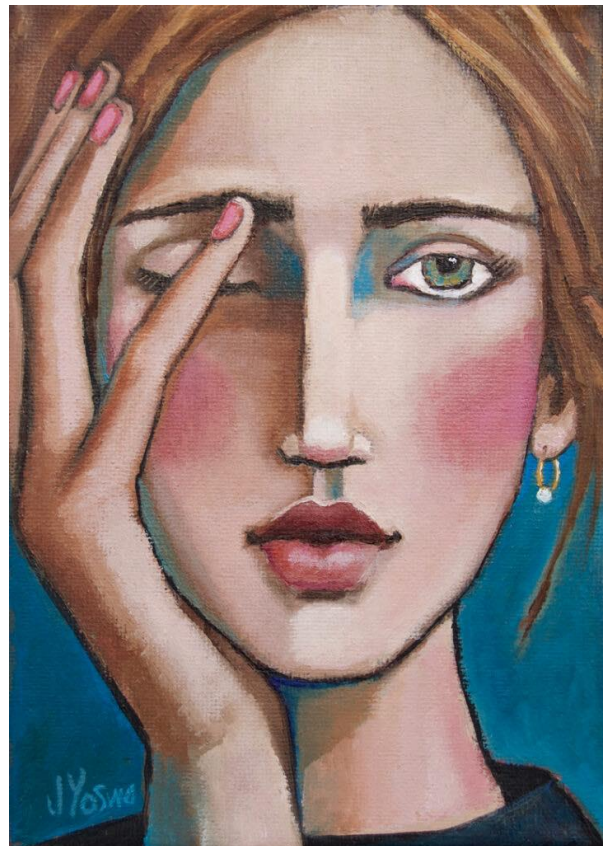
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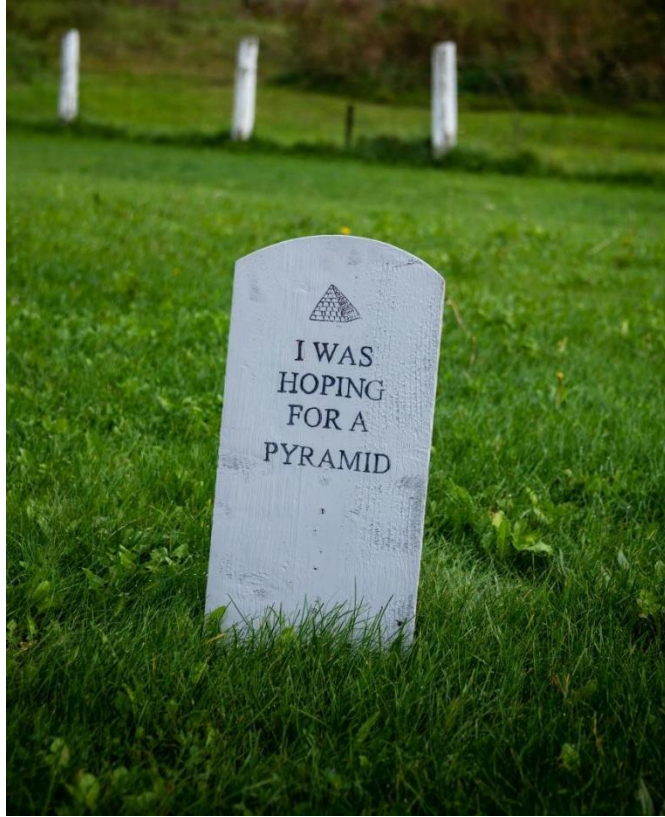
It bothers me when people say mental health is just as important as physical health because it is not. It's more important. Your brain, your mind, your computer, run the entire show. Quite literally nothing, nothing, in your body works without your mind. If it is not constantly maintained, understood, and managed it will bring everything to its knees. Everything. I'm pleased the world is finally waking up to the importance of mental health, but let's prioritize it properly, finally. Right at the top. Where it belongs.

Donna Ashworth

From 'Wild Hope'

Art by the amazing [The Art of Jennifer Yoswa](#)





When you try to be scary and it doesn't work



THE NIGHT EDDIE BECAME A TOAD.

**Have a terrific week!
Blessings to you all!**

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Bonus funny from Gord W's Dad! Thanks guys!

And on the 8th day, God created seniors. Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their eyeglasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch more. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down a lot more times, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest, even though you mutter under your breath.

