

Jean Baptiste Chardin, *Soap Bubbles*, 1733



****First Question First****

What is *your* immediate reaction to this artwork?

Trust it. Write about it. Use the guide sheet for help.

Continue reading for another perspective and journal questions.

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Excerpt from my journal:

Each page of musings in this journal, each teasing apart of emotion and thought, feel like individual filaments constructing my web of grief. And each feel like this Chardin image: with my soulful breath I carefully concentrate on blowing my bubble through to its end. This bubble, this mournful web of grief is strong enough to hold me for a while, to allow me to float and sway in its highs and lows. My own universe. And, at times, I can sense myself nearing encasement. So, I go to nature (outside this morning, in the fog, heard the raucous flock of geese fly overhead), reach out to a friend for intimate contact (asked S. over for tea on Friday), push myself a bit more in the realm of fun (having our first band night tonight). It's a continual breathing the world in and breathing it out. This Mourning Journal has become a respite, looking at art, feeling the pulse of words rise to the surface. Somehow, I am settling more through this process. And I carry this sense of faith that the bubble, the web of grief will grow to its right size and one day will naturally break. Not in a sudden, final way. No. But, I feel aware of the preciousness in this time, that it feels along the same road as the focused caring of walking Daddy home. Like now I am walking myself home, he and I in spirit holding each other's soulful hands. Soap bubbles! Later . . . the image of this bubble stayed with me as reminder of the transience of it all. Focus on the transience and life will be imbued with the preciousness of the miracle.

Q.) In my journal writing I compare my grief to a bubble blown to its limit, a web, or a knotted mass untangling thread by thread. Is there an object or action that is serving as a concrete symbol or metaphor for your experience with grief? Write about it, describing it in detail.