



As I traveled home from a business trip this past week, I had to endure the typical discomforts of modern air travel: I paid a \$15 fee to check my bag; I crammed into a tight window seat overlooking the wing with little leg room for comfort; the passenger in front of me reclined his seat all the way, pushing my computer into my rib cage. Then we sat on the runway for what seemed an eternity for flight delays caused by inclement weather. When we finally took off in the fog and rain, the flight attendants announced that once we were at cruising altitude they would be serving non-alcoholic beverages for \$2 and cocktails for \$7. It was at that moment I realized how much "travel" and "life", in general, had changed this past year.

Then to my surprise, I looked out from the window and my whole view of the world also had changed! We were above the clouds, bathed in sunshine and cruising in azure blue skies. It was then that I saw the beauty of the airplane's wing and offered a silent prayer for:

- The soldiers on that plane who were heading home on furlough. They were laughing and spontaneous yet disciplined and courteous. I thank and honor each of them for their dedication and courage;
- The little ones on that plane and the wondrous life that lay ahead of them;
- The young and old passengers alike who were, literally, going forward with their lives;
- Global healing and understanding;
- Being "alive" and living the life that is mine and mine alone.

As the plane started its descent, life continued its journey. The wing was still there and so was my prayer, but my perspective had changed and I was reminded, once again, to value the "moment". ©Augur Inc. 2008

Have a wonderful holiday and may 2009 be a terrific year for everyone.

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