JUNEBUG From *Insecta* by Ingrid Ankerson

Literally, the word "Junebug" means *awakened, developed and enlightened*. To become a Junebug is to reach ultimate nirvana. One day or another, we may each become a Junebug, but only after realizing the mind’s potential and fully understanding suffering and abandonment.

In western culture the Junebug may be simply thought of as a grinning bug with a large belly. A few trendy Westerners use statuettes of the Junebug as garden decorations or mantelpieces. However, more often (and more unfortunately) Junebugs can be found dead, smattered against the windshield of a Ford Explorer, later to be wiped away with a squeegee, sponge, or towel.

It is a myth that Junebugs only emerge in June. They live year-round in the simplest of underground temples constructed by ants and surface soon after the irises have sunk completely back into the ground. However, June is the month in which they celebrate enlightenment during their annual "we are awake" festival. Again unfortunately, Westerners often mistake this passive festival as an encroachment on their privacy. While Junebugs are only spreading their wisdom door-to-door, Westerners are riddled with suspicion and send Junebugs scuttling. In truth, a Junebug is not a Jehovah's Witness, Mormon or Christian. Nor is it an object to be adored or worshipped.

It simply *is*.