

Reprinted from the Christian Science Sentinel, July 27, 1998
All rights reserved.

Wasps in the roof? No problem. By Elise L. Moore

We were painting the house. The rear bedroom windows were dormers, and the only access to them was from the roof. It didn't take long for me to realize that I was not the only occupant of that roof. A colony of wasps had made their home in or around one of the dormers. They were active, too – in, out, flying all around.

As I sat with wasps buzzing by my head and crawling over my legs, I prayed to see these creatures as God did – in terms of the spiritual qualities they reflect, which I knew had to be good. As I prayed in this way, I stopped being concerned about any danger from the wasps. It might sound silly, but I decided to speak to them and, in a quiet voice, told them that I was there to paint the dormers. I didn't intend to harm them. There was no reason we couldn't work side by side for a while. They could do their job. I could do mine.

And so it was. For as long as I was on the roof, the wasps crawled over me, calmly going about their business. They didn't appear the least bit threatened by my presence. They avoided the wet paint, and I avoided painting them. When my job was done, I left, and they stayed.

The prophet Isaiah describes the spiritual relationship among God's creatures: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them” (Isa. 11:6).

This does not mean that every rat and roach needs to be given room in our house, anymore than we should be given room in theirs. But we can begin to see the divine order of God's universe here on earth. He maintains His creation, with all His ideas dwelling harmoniously and harmlessly together. I've found this statement from *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy inspiring in this regard: “Understanding the control which Love held over all, Daniel felt safe in the lions' den, and Paul proved the viper to be harmless. All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible” (p. 514).

My experience in no way resembles the magnitude of Daniel's. Still, the wasps and I found one another “harmless, useful, indestructible.” In fact, no one was ever stung while we lived in that house.

As we demonstrate our dominion over the “little things” in our daily lives, we prove that all of God's creatures move in harmony.