

Prayer on the roof

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

I was on the roof and so were the wasps. We were painting the house that summer. The rear bedroom windows were dormers and the only access was to climb on the roof.

It didn't take long to realize 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.

I decide to pray with the first chapter of Genesis. At each point in this account of creation, it affirms that "God saw that it was good." The chapter concludes with the assurance, "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31).

As I sat with wasps buzzing by my head and crawling over my legs, I prayed to see these creatures as God saw them. God saw them as good. He created them good. As God's child, there was no reason why I couldn't see them as under the law of God, governed by God.

As I prayed in this way, any concern about the wasps left. I decided to speak out loud to them, and in a quiet voice told them in was there to paint the dormers. I didn't intend to harm them. There was no reason why we couldn't work side by side for a while. They could do their job, I could do mine.

As so it was. For as long as I was on the roof, the wasps flew past me unconcerned, calmly going about their business. They were not threatened in the least by my presence. They avoided the wet paint. I avoided painting them. When my job was done, I left and they stayed.

The prophet Isaiah describes the spiritual relationship between God's creatures in Isaiah 11:6, "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."

My experience in no way resembles the magnitude of Daniel's, for instance. He stayed peacefully in the presence of lions. Nor does it compare to Paul's experience of shaking off the poisonous snake without ill effect.

But in order to demonstrate our dominion over "big" things, it is helpful to start with the "little" things that come into our daily experience. I've found the following statement from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mrs. Eddy inspiring, "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."

This does not mean every rat and roach needs to be given room in our house. Be we can begin to demonstrate the order of God's universe. God sees all His creatures dwelling harmoniously and harmlessly together. What does not belong can be removed without harm to ourselves. What cannot be removed, can be demonstrated to be harmless.

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