

Finding God in Humanity

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By John Van Sloten

Psalm 8 READING] “What are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor.”

It's profound question... with an even more profound answer... **Who are we God?... you made us a little lower than You!... LONG PAUSE...**

What does that mean?... made ‘little lower than God?’

Mean that **you** are made that way? **[CITE NAMES]**

“So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27 **[EXPLAIN Image of God – ‘patterned after self’ we reflect nature... bear divine fingerprints... see Artist in his art YOU!!]**

PAUSE... How so?... Lot's of ways!... Probably a dozen theologians come up with... look at 3 this am... **rationality... creativity... propensity to community** want to 1. **look** at each one...

2. talk about each how points to what **God is like**...

3. **synergy** plays out w/understand both work in us!

Rationality – This #1 thing separates us humans animals... Our ability to think the way we do... **abstractly/be objective to ourselves... process complex thought... imagine... envision... postulate... theorize...** very unique human traits!

Adam Smith came up with an economic theory change world... **Blaise Pascal** barometric pressure idea still use Kpa's today... You once came up w/ that idea to... ! **LONG PAUSE...** made that way!

“We are so familiar with the fact that we can understand the world that most of the time we take it for granted. It is what makes science possible. Yet it could have been otherwise. The universe might have been a disorderly chaos rather than an orderly cosmos. Or it might have had a rationality which was inaccessible to us... There is a congruence between our minds and the universe, between the rationality experienced within and the rationality observed without.” Philosopher Theologian John Polkinghorne

God did this... so you we could know him... **“When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers... the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents... O LORD, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth ...”**

We can know God!... **know!**... our capacity for the abstract & stand objective finds ultimate application ultimate knowing! knowing God!... **PAUSE...** know the Being that **conceived** of it all... **envisioned** a universe... **imagined** you!...

Schliemacher describes ‘rational consciousness’ ... in two ways... 1. **We are aware of our “being”**
2. We are aware of “having-by-some-means-come-to-be” **which begs the question... LONG PAUSE...**

Creativity ... Throughout the service watching Marcia as she's been creating this painting... (**noticed many mostly watching her and ignoring me...**)

As she creates reflects her Creator/Maker... **PAUSE**
Via use of imagination... sense of aesthetic, beauty, space and colour... via her ability to “**see**”... w/artistic eye... sense of **cultivated awareness/attentiveness**

God given gifts!... Process leading up to painting 3 psalm/poems... digested them... meditated... Driving from Red Deer “picture”... other sub-themes too!...

Now an idea miraculously moving **mind's eye...** through **trained hands**, to a brush... **brush picking up just right amount/colour** of paint... **applying perfect pressure...** stroke and direction... leaving desired texture... image... effect!... **PAUSE...** An idea becomes reality... a thought takes form... **LONG PAUSE...** God conceives of the idea of a young woman... Calls her Marcia... build all kinds of creative aptitudes into her... **PAUSE...** he give her emotions, sensitivities, special creative abilities...

Like a good Father he wants her pick a few things up from the old man!... be a bit like him... **PAUSE...** how can she not be?... the DNA's there!... **she's his!...**

And because Marcia knows that aware of an even more amazing thing plays out in her creating... realizes co-creator with God... HS moves in divine inspiration [**POEM/PAINT/PERSON**]... "**HS through her**" **power... passion... ability LONG PAUSE**

God creating **through you!** that **writing...** that **idea... theory... teaching plan... practical building strategy...** that **creative solution...** being used... moved... hand of the Artist... KOG purpose effect!... the thought is absolutely amazing! **PAUSE...**

Community - Watching painting come together... see many different **textures, colours, shapes, intensities** required achieve final effect/product!...

God made the world this way... **multifaceted** and **interdependent...** he made you that way... **unique/** different in so many ways (person with **blue disposition... black and white psyche... red hot passions... green thumb! ☺**)... very intentionally

unique and still very interdependent [**DEFINE both ways...**] **need each other...**

Why?... because w/o all God can't finish painting! ... with out **your shape** my shape can never fully take form... unless you rub up against my texture... :) Made for community... for each other... need each other!... to **relate... to trust, encourage, love...** [**Capadocian Fathers (Starbuck's compilation CD) – Social God**]... we reflect that in our humanity...

Often not too well though... [**Relational Fracture week for JVS... 4 marriages...**] realize want independence... choose colour scheme/ our way!...

PAUSE Which when you think about it huge "affront" to the God who made us for each other... **PAUSE..** even more the **God who made us for himself...**

Here God gives us this huge amazing blank canvas of a life.... Here's some paint... brushes... ideas... and a book to teach you... w/some guidance (**BIBLE – lens into all this stuff...**) ignore the instructions. halfheartedly live it out!... here we have the **opportunity of a lifetime** create something so beautiful... part of something bigger... short change it... miss our mark/cue...

Use our rationality... creativity... community gifts for ourselves... **we rebel in our thinking... creativity gets twisted/perverted... use our relational gifts to serve selves... LONG LONG PAUSE**

And the Great Artist keeps painting... sees not quite right... and being the thoughtful, creative, relational being that he is finds a way to **rework the image...** his image in you... he finds a way to **reclaim good gifts... renew broken propensities...** to get the

primary relationship back on track... through
greatest artist ever (X who re-created via **words**
(parabolic truth)... **touch** (healing) by enacting
greatest drama ever... greatest **[story]** ever profound
painting **CROSS/RESSURECTION...** O tells a new
story... paints a new painting... “making all things new”

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