SAVORING SCIENCE

Musings

John M. Faber

. . . while I was musing the fire burned (Psalm 39:3).

Yesterday I was musing about God's purpose in creating the firmament, dry land, and the seas. I guessed then that God was thinking of living space for living creatures in His creative counsel. And I thought that these habitats were just right for the various creatures He would place there. On the Fifth Day He did create living creatures which had volitions and desires. They, with those yet to be created the next day, would be called living souls.

Then I thought of the difference between those things created on the Fourth and this Fifth Day. Those were in fixed positions; these were called fish and fowl. Then I wondered, seeing they were created on the same day, what did they have in common. In my musing I realized that their mode of locomotion was a bit similar. Birds fly by moving their wings up and down. Fish swim by moving their fins up and down. The fish ride the water currents; birds ride the air currents – think of the soaring eagle or hawk.

Then I thought the firmament and the seas were first-cousins. They comprise the water world. When driving through a heavy rainstorm, I often wonder where all that water comes from! Are there other first-cousin relationships found? Yes, I thought, birds ride the wave formations of the clouds, and fish ride the wave-moved waters. And those wave-formations in the clouds reaching to the horizon are like the waves raging on the seas to its horizon.

Then I thought of the behavior of fish and fowl. Some ducks dive into and "swim" under water to catch their prey. And their cousins, the fish, can leap out of the water to catch a bug flying near the surface. I thought of the osprey, a high flying bird, which can swoop down to catch a sub-surface fish. And I wondered if it is a coincidence that birds and fish like to eat worms. And is it not an awesome sight to see a robin hippity-hopping on your lawn, then stopping and cocking his ear (or is it his eye?) to find that delicious worm moving the blade of grass? Then watch it grab it and pull it way out, to

enjoy his cold meat lunch.

Then I muse about the great variety of the different kinds of living souls. How could God, the Creator, "invent" so many, and such a variety! Of the fish world I know a few, like the pike and the perch. But of the myriads of varieties in the waters of the sea I must find in books. I read of squids (which can make an "ink-screen" to hide from their enemies) and the octopus and the whale. My head swims when I think that there are 150 varieties of octopuses alone! And, each of them has eight arms, each with 240 suckers to the arm for catching its prey! And I learned that they vary in size from two inches to twenty feet!

Then I thought of the whales, some of which reach the length of 100 feet, and weigh 100 tons. They give birth to live babies which, at birth, are some 20 feet long! And those "babies" suckle for months.

I further thought of the whales mentioned in Genesis. Some were sea monsters, of which our well-known whale is but one. I think of the dinosaurs and all the other "saurs" mentioned in science books; they call them pre-historic animals. Then I mused about the fact that our Creator found it necessary to destroy the earth in Noah's time because the giants in Nature were being matched by giants in the Human world — giants of wicked men. But then God's thoughts are way beyond my puny thoughts. He knows the end from the beginning.

I thought, God things big! But He also thinks beauty. Musing about the world of vegetation I remembered the stately palm tree with its fruit; the spreading chestnut with its fruit; the peach, pear, and apple trees with their fruit. Too vast to be comprehended by my feeble brain.

Then I thought of the bird world with its kingly eagle; the gorgeous peacock with its long and colorful tail feathers; the flamingo and the ordinary parrot. That type of thinking naturally turned my musing to the fish world. The ordinary gold fish found in my living room bowl is but a reflection of the exotic fish of the south seas with their colored fins and trailing tails of every color. Then I think that I know only of a few of those piscine beauties, but I am aware of the fact that there are an innumerable variety which I have never seen. I only have a tiny, tiny inkling of the vast creation of Beauty!

Strolling through my garden my attention was called to a butterfly hovering around the flower beds. I thought, "Where does that creature fit in?" It surely does not fit in the fowl-fish category. But it flies, does it not? No, I thought, it flits. Then I thought

that it really does belong to that day of the creation of the fowl and fish. I remembered teaching the children of the "birds and bees and butterflies." In God's inscrutable wisdom He provided the insect world to be the food for His fish and fowl.

Somehow I cannot keep my mind off that butterfly. Then a light came on in my soul. The butterfly (which is only a worm with wings) must be a peculiar picture story of some human characteristic and future experience. Then I mused that it tells of the metamorphosis of our mortal bodies into one of great splendor and beauty. Then, no longer hampered by our butterfly-worm-like bodies, we will be freed from all restrictions to be "free as the bird of the air" (another picture word). Then I thought "How I wish I could see and read more of those nature picture stories which so graphically speak of my ultimate deliverance from sin and death!"

Oh God, how great Thou art!

Dear Miss Koole,

QUESTION:

"Realizing this comes at a late date, I hope you will consider this correspondence for your rubric in the summer issue.

"Let me begin by these remarks:

"1. 'Dear Miss Koole' is a welcome and necessary addition to the magazine.

"2. We now have our own authoritative 'Ann Landers' in the field of educational expertise. The winter issue of 1988, introducing the new rubric in the *Perspectives,* relates your vast experience and knowledgeable teaching background. That indicates two things: a. You have dealt with many, many children and numerous parents, boards, etc. b. You are a senior citizen—plus some years. This should also prove valuable in answering, or at least shedding light on, this perplexing problem which has vexed me for a long, long time — since school days.

"A little background would be helpful, methinks. I had two older sisters who excelled in all levels of study and book learning. They were recognized by achievements and awards. The problem was that I was the slow learner and achiever. Still today I carry a complex of inferiority and an attitude of being unsuccessful in this area of life.

"I often thought, while living as a common laborer all my life, that if only I too had been smarter, what a different work-world would have been my lot!