

Q:

Can a worm climb Mt. Everest?

Not a very spiritual or even a philosophical question.

In fact, you might say a rather foolish one.

What could possibly be achieved by a lowly worm climbing a great mountain?

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills."
— Isaiah 2:2

One could reasonably assume that, with enough time and plenty of luck, a humble worm might one day find himself at the top of the world.

But then, who would notice?

What would he tell the others back home?

Who would believe him?

Some claim our beautiful mysterious universe, a creation of unfathomable dimension and seemingly infinite depth, evolved over time without purpose, devoid of any hint of divine providence.

Infinite possibility, they say, is the inevitable result of time unwinding.

Such beliefs attribute god-like powers to the processes of time and chance. But what does the worm care?

"Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.'"
— Genesis 11:14

Many ancient tales feature heroes who set out to locate immortality. In the image of these ancient pioneers, the worm confidently ascends carrying with him the unswerving belief that he, and he alone, can conquer every obstacle and overcome every vulnerability.

Washed down, blown off, carried away by a heavy rain. No bother.

He relentlessly carries on oblivious to the zero probability of success.

"...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."
— Romans 5:3

WORD ON THE WORD:

The Hebrew word *tola'ath* (pronounced toh-LAH-ath) can refer to a worm, but also to crimson or scarlet dye – the palette of priestly glory. The word humbly alludes to the suffering Christ - a despised lowly thing bearing the red mark of sacrifice. Abasement and glory.

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In the Bible, we humans are often described as “worms”: lowly, vulnerable, defenseless, humble.

For humans and worms are both bound to the earth: one formed from dust and filled with divine breath, the other hidden in the damp soil it calls home.

“...and the son of man, who is a worm!”
- Job 25:6

“Fear not, thou worm Jacob.”
- Isaiah 41:14

The term is even used to foreshadow the coming crucified Messiah.

“I am a worm, and no man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.”
- Psalm 22:6

Throughout the Bible, God upends man’s plans and re-orders the universe according to His righteous purpose.

He overturns human traditions and sets the world into the pattern He as Creator has set.

The first shall be last and the last shall be first.

The meek shall inherit the earth.

The humble servant shall rule as Lord and King.

Down is up. And up is coming down.

“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”
- Luke 14:11

But the worm who seeks the summit alone shall never arrive. For man alone does not ascend the mountain; the mountain bends down to be with man.

The Creator does not demand that we, his creatures, ascend to His holy place. Instead, He comes down to participate in ours.

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”
- Revelation 21:1

In His new order, we rise not by our own heroic effort, but by the gift that is the grace of God. Not by the triumph of pride, but the humility of surrender.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”
- 1 Peter 5:6



Q. What is MAN?

"WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU ART MINDFUL OF HIM? AND THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU VISITEST HIM?"
- PSALM 8:4

MAN HERE IS "ENOSH" [HEBREW] - frail, mortal, infirm, miserable, sinful, sorrowful, made of dust

AND YET,...

- MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD
- STEWARD OF GOD'S GARDEN
- GIVEN DOMINION OVER ALL CREATURES OF EARTH
- HOST OF THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT
- MADE 'LOWER THAN THE ANGELS' YET TO BE EXALTED IN 'GLORY AND HONOR' OVER THEM
- REDEEMABLE

"LOVEST THOU ME?"
- JOHN 21:17

I KNOW GOD/JESUS LOVES ME. BUT, ...

Q. HOW DO I KNOW THAT I LOVE GOD/JESUS?



I PLACE **NOTHING** ABOVE OR BEFORE **GOD'S GLORY**.

I ASK MYSELF, ... WILL THIS THOUGHT, THIS WORD, THIS ACTION BRING GLORY TO HIS HOLY NAME (AND A SMILE TO HIS FACE).

I, AS A LIVING TEMPLE OF **GOD**, MUST REPRESENT HIS HONOR IN THE WORLD.

I MUST BE A REFLECTION OF HIS LIGHT.

I FOLLOW HIS WORDS, HIS COMMANDMENTS, HIS EXAMPLE.

I WILL PLACE **GOD** AT THE CENTER OF MY LIFE ALWAYS.

God

- **BEFORE** ALL
- **AT THE CENTER** OF ALL
- **BEHIND** EVERY ACTION, WORD OR THOUGHT

■ WE **KNOW** WHAT TO DO. WE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO DO IT.

ASK YOURSELF...
Q. WILL IT BRING **GLORY** TO **God**?"