

Short Item: Why are we Aesthetic Creatures?

- Human beings are very strange creatures compared to those we see in the natural world.
- Some people would have you believe that we're just a higher animal.
 - They try to point to physiological similarities, but try to ignore the obvious differences.
- But the differences are massive and obvious.
 - We use tools and build things
 - We paint pictures,
 - We read novels, write poetry, speak languages, and make music with instruments.
- You may say, but
 - a bird builds a nest, and chirps
 - A beaver builds a dam
 - A dog can tell someone they want food or a walk.
 - A spider builds a web.
 - I've seen an elephant paint on a canvas
- But these examples are really leagues apart in degree and in kind.
 - Animals act out of instinct, humans don't.
 - The things they do are very different to us in type, (even with people desperately trying to find commonality).
- Humans build pyramids, and engineer rockets that fly to the moon.
 - We write poetry, compose symphonies, and paint masterpieces expressing an Object and the view of the Subject.
 - We worship things and fall in love.
 - Solomon said the way of a man with a maid was a wonder!
- You see, animals can be trained by people to do all sorts of things like a circus trick, but they don't do it naturally.
 - In all the years I had a cat I never caught it
 - trying to express himself through art,
 - contemplating a sunset,
 - or bowing down to a statue.
- Beauty is actually a pretty bad thing to evolve if you want to survive.
 - Both possessing it and appreciating it.
 - If you're a peacock, all your predators can spot you and grab your tail more easily than others without such beauty
 - If an animal stops to appreciate a wonderful sunset or a rainbow, its predators will find it easier to catch and eat it!
- Charles Darwin said the sight of a peacock's tail made him feel sick,
 - because he couldn't account for beauty with his blind, mindless process of evolution.

- He said of flowers, that they were the 'abominable problem',
 - because their fossils seem to appear suddenly in rock layers as if from nowhere in what he thought was a record of millions of years of evolution, rather than the record of the global flood.
- We often hear the voices of scientists in this area, both Christian and secular.
 - But maybe we need to listen to the artists.
- Why do they cry out from their souls in their music,
- Or pour out their hearts onto their canvases?
- Why do they cry tears onto the pages of their poetry and lament this cruel world?
 - It's as if they're trying to express their soul in a world that has told them they haven't got a soul.
 - That they're an accident of chance, and matter, that doesn't matter.
- Why do people write fictional stories, and put on dressing up clothes and pretend to be heroes that save the world?
- Why do people feel the need to worship things -
 - from statues to football teams?
 - From dead ancestors to living pop stars?
 - Even pop stars that commit suicide.
 - In fact, why do we do that?
 - Animals don't do that.
- But people feel different,
 - Feeling like they do matter.
 - That there is something deeper, that there has to be more meaning.
 - That they're not just a bunch of chemicals.
- We're very curious creatures if big bang cosmology, evolution, and materialistic atheism is true.
- But we act in exactly the way we should expect if the Bible is true.
 - The Bible says we were made differently from the animals (by the same Designer, which accounts for the physical similarity)
 - but we were made with a living soul, and made in God's image.
- We reflect some of His attributes.
 - We're personal,
 - creative,
 - and moral.
 - We have language and the power of reason.
 - We are self aware, with consciousness.
- But we've tried to run away from the idea of a Creator God, convincing ourselves we don't have a spiritual core.
 - Therefore we're completely confused about ourselves.
- A fox does fox stuff, by instinct.
- So does a spider, or a salmon.
- They know what they need to do.
 - But you live in a world that gives you no purpose or point.

- The secular world has absolutely no idea what to do with human life.
- We ask questions like,
 - Who am I?
 - Why am I here?
 - What's the point of life?
- A famous Christian philosopher called this the 'Manishness of Man' and said it was proof we've been made in the image of God.
- You see a person may try to convince themselves they're something they're not, but it won't be easy if it doesn't fit with how they act as a creature.
- You can put a hat and glasses on a rabbit and try to believe it's a person,
 - but sooner or later you're going to have to deal with the fact it doesn't act like one.
- Or, a person may really believe they're a rabbit,
 - but sooner or later they're going to have to come to terms with the fact that they don't look or act like a rabbit.
- Trying to convince ourselves we're animals or they're us, is actually like a bad magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat.