

## God Doesn't Make Mistakes

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If you flip through the Bible, well...I've read it through and have had years of Bible teaching, and I have an opinion on the topic of divine errors. Aside from those, I think that in the USA we take a prideful stance in our allegiance to a mistake-free God. But of course, who wants a Supreme Being who makes foibles every few centuries?

Though the word "mistake" isn't quite there for eyes to read, regret is. He regretted making Man, and so Noah learned to float. When God was fed up with the over one million griping Jews after rescuing them from slavery in Egypt, He wanted to wipe them out and start over with Moses and his offspring. These are a couple stories that have the clear signs of catastrophic "Oops!" and "I'll need to fix that!" written all over them.

I recently heard an Orthodox Jewish rabbi teach that in the Garden of Eden, God *set up* Adam and Eve to fail. He knew the outcome before the first bite from the forbidden fruit. Why? He had His manifold reasons.

On the radio the other day I caught a live Christian call-in show. One caller confidently stated, "My God doesn't make mistakes!" He seemed determined to protect and defend his God's reputation. That got my theological wheels turning. My point is that when something turns out to be a mistake someone is responsible. The caller *needed* to see His God as blameless – no matter what. (BTW, I hope he's right.) Otherwise, this divine downside means that we creatures must live in global mistakes not of our own making.

Shortly after this, I watched the news on the Internet and saw an amazing event. In England, the Guinness Book of World Records brought together the world's tallest and smallest man. (See photo) Being too tall or too small has its problems. The two had similar physical complications. Any viewer could easily see that their odd bodies were – dare I say mistakes – far from ideal! At 32 pounds and a mere 21½ inches, the size of 74 year-old Dangi from Nepal, to me was shocking and sadly, repulsive. I couldn't help wondering if the boasting Christian caller would stand his ground and to prove so, if possible, *switch* bodies with little Dangi. If such a man, no taller than the caller's kneecaps, was no mistake, why would there be any hesitancy? If the two met in person, would the caller lie on his belly, and while resting on his elbows, tell Dangi eye-to-eye, "Your body is no mistake! No way, dude!"

By contrast, 32-year-old Kosen from Turkey, at 8 foot 3 inches wasn't looking healthy either – he needs the aid of a cane or crutches to get around. Neither human oddities looked like he'd switch places with the other. Just a different set of problems awaited.

Certain religious teachers interpret the pesky, indicting Bible stories as simply portraying the Person of the Supreme Being as capable of behaving *similarly* to His made-in-His-image creatures. Yet, the religious teachers instruct that the language used is only to comfort us since He isn't *really* that much like us. Instead, the words serve as merely an element employed for storytelling, a way to connect with our humanity and to help us understand that He has traits and characteristics. The concept is called anthropomorphism.

On the flip-side, who wants a Supreme Being that does make guffaws, errors and wrongs? Remember God has no wife pointing out His missteps and blunders or offering suggestions of how He could make things "right."

I want to switch to a nearby celestial body. When I look at our moon and see the multitude of impact craters, it's hard to confidently say "God is in control, alright!" Was the Creator preoccupied when the moon was getting its butt kicked, or was He nodding? This is a red flag, an obvious sign which can make us suspect. If a top employee or CEO at a large corporation had been responsible for the over 300,000 lunar craters (Google it!) he or she would be let go for gross mismanagement! But, believers in a meteor-catching God seem to never get near crossing over that theological line.

Either way, tall, small or average, I do believe that on some level God keeps track of the size of a person's heart. Those with a normal size body could be judged *more* harshly than those who suffer through life as a height-challenged oddity or cripple. Perhaps on such a heavenly Judgment Day the smallest among us will be shown to have the largest hearts. Those who stand above and look down on average folk may be found the most wanting for strength of character and moral stability.

*These Things Make Me Grumpy*