

## Plays with Sea Monsters

*Job 41*

By Carl Brown

A lot has happened this year, and frankly, I'm worried.

Joe Biden is president. Apparently this is why the coronavirus is so bad. It's Joe's fault. That's what Trump says. And Trump also is president, so he should know.

This is Trump's platform: Trump should be re-elected to clean up the mess that Joe made while Trump was in office. It's the first time that the United States has had two presidents at the same time: one duly elected by Russia, and one appointed to take the blame for the other's mistakes.

I have to admit that leaves me a little confused. It's not only the politics.

Gender reveal parties are apparently a thing, in a society that ironically is becoming more fluid in gender. Fireworks or smoke are used, and the colour determines the sex of the child. They also start brush fires.<sup>1</sup>

There should be more intricately coloured fireworks, and fewer brush fires.

Killer hornets that disappeared have reappeared and are trying to get into my house. Stunt drivers are still here. Climate change too. We still have a pandemic - two, in fact. One involves a virus and the other a critical shortage of common sense.

There's a lot going on and frankly, I'm a bit concerned that it's all too much for God to handle.

But if you consult Job, you find that a lot was going on then too. And he turned out alright in the end. That gives me hope.

Job demanded that God appear and explain why so many terrible things that were happening. I do not want God to appear. Enough has happened already.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54053811#:~:text=The%20California%20Department%20of%20Forestry,a%20girl%20or%20a%20boy.>

But the connection we have to God is important. Heinz Kohut<sup>2</sup> said that we all need to be connected to someone more powerful. It helps our self esteem.

Back when they still rented movies, I took my son Rob, who was three, to rent the new Superman movie. The cashier asked Rob if he wanted to be like Superman when he grew up. My son, bless him, said no, he wanted to be just like his Dad. My heart melted. He then said some embarrassing things that only three-year-olds can say. But that did not detract from the fact that my son saw me as someone more powerful than he, with whom he wished to have a relationship. So that he could rent movies.

Job said that he wanted God to appear to give an account for all the things that had happened to him. Job wanted to know if God was still God, and if Job was still connected to God. Job wanted to know if God was still in charge, and if God still cared.

God did not disappoint Job. He thundered and roared and blustered like a father who has lost the TV remote. He reminded Job that he was in charge. Not only did God make Job, but God made the sea monster that scares not only Job but - check out verse 9 in chapter 41 - even the gods. Yet God can play with such a sea monster as a person might play with a bird.

Well then. That settles it. The U.S. may be headed for fascism, the hornets are back, and the second wave of COVID may be coming, but our God plays with sea monsters. And we are God's people.

So there is nothing happening in 2020 that God cannot handle, and nothing that can separate us from the love of - that is, our connection with - God.

No need to appear. I'm good. As you were.

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<sup>2</sup> *The Analysis of the Self*. Madison, 1971: International Universities Press.