

“Given its strength, can you trust it? Can you leave and trust the ox to do your work? Can you rely on it to bring home your grain and deliver it to your threshing floor?” Job 39:11-12 NLT

lectio // Job 38:39-39:12

I love the power and expansive beauty of these passages! I am sure that Discovery Channel or NatGeo used these chapters as a guide for how to study animals in their natural habitat. God asks Job a myriad of questions that he has no answer for, that's the point. Job wasn't a zoologist or have access to satellite TV to watch reruns of videographers deeply embedded in the most unusual places on the planet. Nor did Job have footage of the new animal spy cams where they have a robotic monkey or hippo with a high definition camera as a fake eye infiltrating the habitats of animals. Oh, I don't believe for a second that Job was a stupid man, but no one had these answers at that time - not even glass had been invented! Why is God quizzing Job about these things? Because in every human there is a deep belief that we KNOW everything. It's not just the angst, teenage years either. We really think we're quite intelligent. Today God may ask some far more complicated questions of a modern-day Job. Questions that boggle the mind of earth's most educated scientists. Questions that even "theorists" disagree on the answers. Oh, I'm not going to give you an example, I'm not that smart, but you get the idea. This question caught my eye though. It's about the WILD ox. Even if you could get it to do the work necessary, can you really trust it? Trust it to finish and tidy up afterwards? God even knows what "wild" animals will do! God also knows what "wild" humans do as well 😊.

oratio

Dad,

I'm not claiming to be smart or smarter than any of the "experts" in these fields. However, I do know that I cannot begin to fathom your knowledge, pretend that I can outsmart you or, even for one second, act like I know better than you. That's the point with Job, right? When I have THE most difficult question about how you run the world or my life, it is absurd that I would think I could understand all the possibilities of WHY! These questions left Job feeling completely at a loss for answers, because he DID NOT have any! So it is with me, I do not know why everything happens the way it does. I do not know why evil is unchecked to perpetrate on good. I can say, oh it's because of "free will" and "sin" but that still feels shallow and simplistic. I trust in your character to always do what is right, true and just.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root