

The Creed: Part V

The Father almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth.

I have already dealt with the first part of this clause dealing with omnipotence. So now we move to God as creator.

There are many creation myths and theories that have circulated throughout the cultures of the world through all recorded history. Peoples have sought explanation of the reasons for their being—beyond their own parents. The faith of the Hebrew people and us Christians as descendants of Judaism lies in the belief that the God of Gods, the Lord of Lords, is the maker and owner of “the earth and all it holds.” (Ps 24:1). As it is God’s idea made manifest in matter by God Himself, it belongs to Him and he has full authority over all its aspects. He delegated to Man “dominion” over all creatures when he created Man. Of course, we know that when Man sinned, he rendered his power, or dominion, over all creatures unto Lucifer. That’s why we have the problems we have today with evil.

As maker, God sets the laws of the cosmos in place and they govern the universe (Job 38-40). The word ‘maker’ in the new translation of the Mass is a change from the word ‘creator,’ which we have been accustomed to using since 1975 when the first English translation was approved for worship by the Vatican. The word ‘maker’ has a sense of “hands on work” to it that does not readily come to mind with the word ‘creator.’ In our more modern understanding the people who come up with the concept are sometimes called creators, while others produce the concept created. The word “maker” also emphasizes the connection between what is made and the one who makes it.

There is a story about a group of scientists who were trying to create life in the laboratory. They were eventually able to put the proper compounds together, and with chemical reactions and electricity they caused cell formation to begin. So they called God on the phone and said, “Hey God! We don’t need you anymore, because we were able to create life in the laboratory.” “Very well,” said God, “How did you do it?” They replied, “First you get some dirt...” Well, God interrupted them and said, “No! You have to get your own dirt!” You see, God created the universe from nothing, and He guards His role as the maker of creation.

At the Tower of Babel, when the arrogant people sought to be equal to God, God asserted His authority over creation, confusing the languages to preserve Man from his arrogance. I recommend that you read the 38th -- 40th Chapters of Job where God’s words to Job are another example of God’s assertion that there is no one equal to God in the universe.

As we continue our journey through life, it would behoove us to meditate regularly on the beauty and wonder of God’s creation and our relation to God, our maker. It is hard for us in this wealthy country, where we are dependent on our own abilities and riches to achieve and get what we want if we just work for it. The poor have an easier time with this because they are much more dependent on the bounty of God and the graciousness of others. Thus, they depend more on God to help them, to protect them. They more readily realize their human relationship to God, the maker and sustainer of all life.