

EARTH CARE & SPIRITUALITY  
MONTHLY REFLECTION

July 2022

Parable of the Bat

by Stephen Hastings



What is it about bats that bothers folks? Bad folklore perhaps: it might be a blood sucker!; they *all* have rabies; and maybe just because they tend to be aloof and mysterious, so we have no familiarity with them and I guess we are by convention suspicious of what we don't know up close and personal; suspicious of what's up in the attic. And yet I know people – myself for example – I love it when I'm sitting outside at night and bats take to the sky. They *are* one of God's creatures after all.



I'm sure we've all heard that (somewhat less than kind) saying, "A face only a mother could love." Not so! Take a close look. Bats are an evolutionary masterpiece – sonar guided bug zappers extraordinaire. I want them to come near so I can experience their fascination, at least when I'm outside.

Although, when they get in the house and you're lying in bed in the dark and become aware of a very soft and quiet motion ... you feel the movement of the air ... back and forth ... kinda creepy, I know, but that's the best time to get an up-close look at how fascinating bats are. I've always been able to catch them in a towel and release them outside. I've always felt good about it, when that worked out OK. Free to fly another night.

Getting near things – living beings – that we are taught (by some) to stay away from. There's a moral there – a parable perhaps. Jesus looked at birds, flowers, grapevines, figs and seeds, felt the wind, and said, "Consider these things. They all have something to tell you."

Hear now the Parable of the Bat ...

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