

Dan's Devotion: The artistic skills of an elephant

I admire those of you who have artistic skills. I can't fathom how some of you can take a blank piece of paper and turn it into something that looks beautiful. I admire you because I have no artistic skills whatsoever. If I try to draw or paint something it turns out looking like what a little kid would make. It's sad, but true. I used to be able to say something like, "I have the artistic skills of an elephant." I could say that until somebody sent me a YouTube video that showed an elephant painting a picture with its trunk. And it was good! I couldn't believe it. So now I don't even have the artistic skills of elephants. How sad is that?

As great as some artists are though, the most beautiful paintings in the world can't even compare to the originals that were created by God. The beauty of a sunset or a sunrise is amazing. And after being dormant all winter we will begin to see the beauty of leaves, and grass, and flowers. Look up at the stars on a clear night. Wow! And think of all the different kinds of animals that God created. Here in Iowa, we have a lot of pheasants. The male pheasant is a beautiful bird. The beauty of creation is all around us if we keep our eyes open. When God finished creating everything it says, "*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*" Genesis 1:31a. I would say God was too humble in his assessment of his creation. In fact, words can't really even do it justice.

Don't forget to look around you each day at God's beauty and thank God for being such an amazing artist and if he has given you some of those artistic skills, thank him for that too.

Have a great day.

Dan