

Writer's block is a terrible problem, and as far as I know it affects everybody from those forced to do a term paper to those who love to write. I find myself praying for "inspiration", when the greatest inspiration of all has already been given to us. Jesus proclaimed Himself an eternal source of thirst-quenching water¹, and indeed it even flowed from his side². We cannot improve upon this story – we can only look at it from a different perspective.

Our stories must have pressure from within to flow, but they are not produced like making hamburger by cranking it out of the grinder. The real question is "will anyone care?" about what is written. The first goal is to create, but the second, almost equally important goal is to hope someone will be touched by our thoughts.

There must be something in our minds as a medium to work with, and that means a lot of reading and interaction with others for input. But we may spend years in our studies and working our thoughts out on paper, and then still encounter the infamous "block". It is a problem that we think we should be able to solve ourselves, yet we need to draw on the true Creative Power to break through.

Recently I have had a significant struggle with the creative process. Somehow I was led to think about Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch). He was the intermediary between God and the Israelites, and his receipt of the law of God has caused it to be labeled "the Law of Moses". But he was very cautious about his communication skills, at least verbally³, when he was first given the job.

I see a bit of an allegory when I think of the manner in which he worked with God to deliver the Israelites much-needed water while they wandered in the desert. The first time the people grumbled about it (blaming Moses), he prayed to God and God instructed him to strike the Rock. God's presence was there in full force, and using the same staff by which the Nile was divided, water came when Moses struck the Rock⁴. There is a real meaning here associated with the rock which blocked the flow of water.

So when I was young and inexperienced, I spoke to the Rock, and humbly asked God to enable me to express His Glory. I knew that I was not capable by myself to do Him proper credit. And I believe that He has answered me many times (though you may disagree if you have read my work). But after years of studying and working on lessons, I began to think that I had talent. But writer's block made me think about things a little more. Even when I had more time to write, I had no real spark and could not force the creative flow.

Continuing with the story of Moses, I think I made a mistake similar to the second time he produced water for the rebellious Israelites. This time, he was told to speak to the Rock⁵, probably to more fully illustrate that the power of this act came through God. But he struck the Rock as though he had the power, and the language he used in his anger was as though he and Aaron were providing the water. Then God became angry and pronounced judgment that Moses would not be able to lead the community into the Promised Land.

Two things are particularly interesting about this event. The first is that God did not allow Moses' attitude to keep the Israelites from the water they needed. In the creativity world, this tells me that God does not really need me to feed the flock; He will get it done through me or around me. The second thing is that we find that Moses struck the rock twice. One way to think of this is that nothing happened the first time (a real case of blockage), so in his anger he hit it again without thinking of the need for God's power.

I want to revert back to the original condition where I know that I am not smart enough to be creative. There is a force that can work through me if I will let it. I look forward to the return of those seemingly "magical" occurrences of ideas of links between ideas as the Spirit helps crystallize my innermost thoughts and feelings. I want the chance to be a conduit that can show the manifold glory of God in a way that helps others to see. I want to speak to the Rock that is Christ⁶ so that His living water flows continually into our lives.

1. John 4:13
2. John 19:34
3. Exodus 4:10
4. Exodus 17:1ff
5. Numbers 20:11ff
6. 1 Corinthians 10:4

