

Intersections: Christianity & Today

Stan Schmidt

No Exceptions for Nice People

1. Laws of nature treat everyone alike.
—Harold S. Kushner, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, p. 58
2. A bullet has no conscience; neither does a malignant tumor. Ibid., p. 58
3. Let us suppose, again for this purposes of argument, that I was one of those righteous people to whom God would not let anything bad happen. . . . Could I jump out of a high window when I was in too much of a hurry to wait for the elevator and not hurt myself? Ibid., p. 59
4. The act of God is the courage of people to rebuild their lives after the earthquake. Ibid., p. 60
5. “Good God, how much reverence can you have for Supreme Being who finds it necessary to include tooth decay in His divine system of creation? Why in the world that He ever create pain?”
“Pain?” Lieutenant Shieskopf’s wife pounced upon the word victoriously. “Pain is a useful symptom. Pain is a warning to us of bodily dangers.”
“And who created the dangers?” Yossarian demanded. “Why couldn’t He have used a doorbell to notify us, or one of His celestial choirs? Or a system of blue-and-red neon tubes right in the middle of each persons forehead?”
“People would certainly look silly walking around with red neon tubes in the middle of their foreheads.”
“They certainly look beautiful now, writhing in agony, don’t they?”
—Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*
6. A nice man submits it couplet [two lines of rhyming poetry] to a magazine for publication. He receives back: “Very nice, though there are dull stretches.”
7. A nice man submits a painting to a museum. They couldn’t find the artist, so they hung the picture.
8. “I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.” —God, Isaiah 45:7
9. A trouble-free life is an oxymoron. Like a small grand piano, a quiet rock concert or a two-ton mosquito. *Life of Fred: Farming*, p. 22

(Bonus on next page.)

Dian Fossey

Her pioneering work with gorillas has forever changed the ways animals are studied in the wild.

The poachers were locals making money off the hands and heads of the gorillas. The heads were used as wall decorations and the hands as ashtrays.

Dian Fossey was murdered in her cabin in 1985. She was hacked to death with a machete. No arrests have ever been made. It is believed that poachers killed her.

She had sat within a few feet of mountain gorillas almost every day for the last 22 years of her life.



Dian Fossey

