

## Miracles and Religion

A miracle must be considered as David Hume once said, "a violation of the laws of nature." It does not matter who orders a miracle to happen or who puts the laws of nature in place. God or chance maybe the cause of a miracle; nevertheless it is an unusual accident, and therefore cannot and should not be accepted as part of the laws of nature or a fact to expect to be repeated and predicted.

In teaching religion to students, most teachers tend to stress the abnormal, or what is called miracles as part of the faith that everyone ought to believe in. Failure to accept miracles as an integral component of religion makes believing incomplete, causing believers who doubt miracles to feel less religious or guilty. Memorization of things and stories the brain cannot make sense of, such as details of how miracles happened in the past, or how they will happen in the future tend to reduce the brain to a mere store for words and numbers and dates and images that overwhelm its capacity to process information; and thus to limit the mind's ability to think rationally and make sense of the real world in which it lives and functions.

Miracles therefore should be viewed as violations of the laws of nature; and since violations do happen at times but are abnormal and thus unreliable; miracles must not be allowed to influence one's decisions of how to live or even to believe. Taking miracles seriously is likely to make the life of believers an illusion, while making living a full worldly life sounds like a heresy.

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