Miracles
A lesson from Sonny Elam

The first thing to understand about miracles is that Creation is a miracle: something from nothing, the event described in Genesis. Compared to this there is no miracle.

It will be objected that Creation is of a different order, that the common understanding of miracles is deviation from "natural" process within the framework of what has been created. In other words, miracles are commonly regarded as suspensions of or additions to natural order.

However, no one should object to spending time pondering the original Creation. What I mean is not simply appreciating the creation. I mean appreciating what the Creator did: not the result of what he did so much as the fact that he did it and the genius of his design in doing so. An analogy would be admiring the skill of an artist, which is going beyond admiring the works he has produced.

Maybe it takes another artist to admire the skill of an artist. This might explain why everyone adores the creation but so few adore the Creator as creator. (There are other reasons to adore God, so there is no great spiritual deficit is failing to appreciate his skill as Creator.)

But by now you see what I am getting at.

Think about the design that God had to come up with in order to create this universe and get things to happen according to his plan. In doing so you will have to choose between A) a supremely wise God, and B) one who is not quite clever enough or enough sure of himself to create a magnificent design that will never have to be amended.

Hopefully you have picked A. Now what is a miracle? If you think of a miracle as something outside of the original design, then you have really given a B grade to God for creation. The implications of this, which I leave for your homework, are far reaching indeed. For example, how did God do things like parting the Red Sea? How did Pharaoh's magicians mimic Moses' miracles? How do people learn to perform miracles?

Hint: Ask a programmer about undocumented features and "back doors" and who uses them.

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