"In the beginning, God created the earth, and he looked upon it in His cosmic loneliness.

And God said, "Let Us make living creatures out of mud, so the mud can see what We have done." And God created every living creature that now moveth, and one was man. Mud as man alone could speak. God leaned close to mud as man sat up, looked around, and spoke. Man blinked. "What is the purpose of all this?" he asked politely.

"Everything must have a purpose?" asked God.

"Certainly," said man.

"Then I leave it to you to think of one for all this," said God.

And He went away."

— Kurt Vonnegut

"A blank piece of paper is God's way of telling us how hard it is to be God."

— Sidney Sheldon

I am an act of kneading, of uniting and joining that not only has produced both a creature of darkness and a creature of light, but also a creature that questions the definitions of light and dark and gives them new meanings."

— Gloria Anzaldúa

"One of the strangest things is the act of creation.

You are faced with a blank slate—a page, a canvas, a block of stone or wood, a silent musical instrument.

You then look inside yourself. You pull and tug and squeeze and fish around for slippery

raw shapeless *things* that swim like fish made of cloud vapor and fill you with living clamor. You latch onto something. And you bring it forth out of your head like Zeus giving birth to Athena.

And as it comes out, it takes shape and tangible form.

It drips on the canvas, and slides through your pen, it springs forth and resonates into the musical strings, and slips along the edge of the sculptor's tool onto the surface of the wood or marble.

You have given it cohesion. You have brought forth something ordered and beautiful out of nothing.

You have glimpsed the divine."

— Vera Nazarian,

"In nature, improbabilities are the one stock in trade. The whole creation is one lunatic fringe.

Anne Dillard

"It's easy to attack and destroy an act of creation. It's a lot more difficult to perform one."

— Chuck Palahniuk

"I criticize by creation, not by finding fault."

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

"The creation of the world did not take place once and for all time, but takes place every day."

— Samuel Beckett,