

ISHY - SQUISHY



(Photo credit: boxjellyfish.org)

Undulating in the sea, jellyfish are an **ethereal sight** !
These exquisite creatures have even inspired videos with music to help people relax.

But if you've ever been **stung** by jellyfish while swimming (or even walking on a beach), you might not be so enthralled.

Tentacles trailing from the jellyfish body can inject **venom** via thousands of microscopic barbed stingers.

Stings may be mild or severe, depending on the species. Usually they cause **immediate pain and irritation** on the skin.

But some types can cause whole-body (systemic) illness.

In rare cases, the stings are **life-threatening**.

Severe reactions require emergency medical care.

Jellyfish are captivating, but they are also **potentially lethal**.

Did you know...

- Jellyfish - also called *jellies* - aren't fish at all.
- There are at least **2,000 species** of jellyfish.
- Some jellies are **bioluminescent**. They produce light through chemical reactions. Some other species refract light, creating a rainbow of hues.
- Not all jellyfish species sting.
- Of the stinging species, some especially bad players include the **Box Jellyfish**, **Portuguese Man-of-War**, **Sea Nettle**, and **Lion's Mane Jellyfish**.

Contrasting realities exist in God's creation.
But they also help us to appreciate God's truth.

- **Salvation**, for example, is all the more to be desired when compared to the danger of the **Judgment**.
- **Heaven** is all the sweeter when we ponder the bitterness of **Hell**.
- **Everlasting life** is all the more comforting when contrasted with the sting of **eternal death**.

We serve a God of **contrasts**.
He is **loving** yet **dangerous**. Jesus is both the **Lamb** *and* the **Lion**.

If we fear the Lord, we need fear **nothing else**,
because all other threats dissolve before Him.

When fear paralyzes the world,
God's children can have **His peace** — indescribable peace.

**This is the assurance from the God who gave the jellyfish
its beauty — and its sting.**

*“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”
– 1 Corinthians 15:55*