



BEHOLD!

Walnut

Luke 2:8, 9

*Shepherds were out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
And an angel of the Lord appeared to them...
and they were filled with fear...*

Not knowing much about farm animals, and sheep in particular, I didn't know how a sheep folds its legs when it lies down. I was able to locate several small farms nearby our house that had sheep, so my wife and I spent hours watching them and waiting to see even one up close enough to see how they folded their legs. But, to no avail; I found them to be very, very skittish.

I finally gave up and tried Plan 2, which was to write to the National Geographic Society, who have some of the best animal pictures in the world, to see if they could send me any pictures of sheep lying down.

Well, lo and behold, they sent me about 30 pictures of sheep but, unfortunately, they were all in deep grass or so distant I couldn't tell if they were standing up or lying down, however, I certainly appreciated their response.

There is one other comment I would like to make about this piece. Most all of my carvings were done in the evenings, maybe a few times a week after the children were off to bed and when I had finished any reading or other work that I had brought home from my office. So, I may have worked on a piece anywhere from six months to two years.

One evening after midnight I was putting a finishing coat on this piece when I noticed something that made me laugh loud enough that my wife called down, wanting to know what's going on. I told her that, after all these months, I just discovered that my shepherd had six fingers! Fortunately, it wasn't a big problem to remove the bottom one. It really would have been a major catastrophe if I had left one too few.