

Ask the Beasts: Spirituality and the Evolving Earth

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Boston College, July 13, 2013

Ask the beasts and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you
Who among these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing,
and the breath of every human being. (Job 12:7-10)

The unicorn, a missing leg of the stool

III. Theological wisdom: creation

creatio originalis, creatio continua, creatio nova

And in this [Christ] showed me something small - so bigger than a hazelnut - lying in the palm of my hand as if

And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts, and always will, because God loves it, and thus everything
has being through the love of God.
~ Julian of Norwich, *Showings*

God makes all things and needs nothing in creation from anything outside himself

Without MacCabe, *God, Christ and Us*

the highest and best power have kindled every human spark and I have dreamed our being and our life

lie hidden in these things and they blaze from me.

~ Hildegard of Bingen, *Mystical Writings*

God is in all things, and, indeed, as part of them, because he is in them, not as a part of them, but as a whole in each part, which it works. ... Now since God's very essence is being, created being must be God's proper effect; as to ignite is God's proper effect of fire. Now God causes this effect in things not only when they first begin to be, but as long as they are present in being, as light is in the sun. Therefore, as long as a thing has being, God must be present to it according to its mode of being. But being is innermost in each thing and most fundamentally innermost in all things. ... Hence it must be that God is in all things, and uniformly.

Let your mind roam through the whole creation; everywhere the created world will cry out to you: "God made me!"

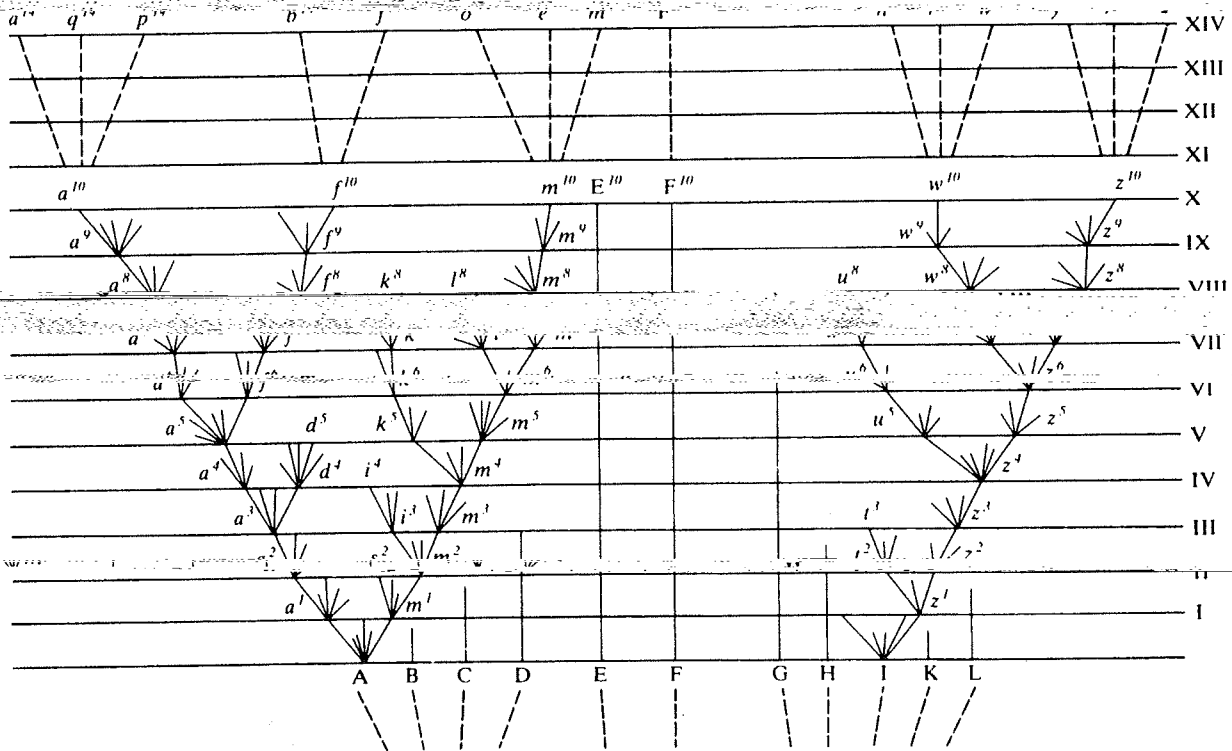
Some of the created things are as it were the voices with which they praise their Creator.

[Creation's praise is not an extra, an addition to what it is, but the shining of its being, the meaning it has in pointing to itself. The very forms of plants and animals are their voice of praise.]

The community of creation - The tree of life is the dwelling place of God, a sacrament of divine goodness, a book that reveals God's wisdom and power, the bearer of a great promise.

It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us. (489)

Scheme of the tree of life:



Then imagine, in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved. (490)

“Hurrahing in Harvest,” Gerard Manley Hopkins
 These things, these things were here and but the beholder
 Wanting, which two when they once meet,
 The heart rears wings bold and bolder