



Planet Earth Gives Birth to Life

CONSIDER

The newly forming earth, her molten rock now covered with water, held within a great surprise: the possibility of Life. And there was life! The first life forms invented photosynthesis about 3.9 billion years ago. They were very tiny, very invisible, and very creative! They initiated a whole new, interactive relationship between earth and the Sun! They learned to capture photons, to eat sunlight, a free source of energy for life. Their waste product, oxygen, was released into the atmosphere and waters. Nearly two billion years later, they had another life crisis-too much oxygen

These simple little life forms, faced with extinction, learned to collaborate with each other in new ways that balanced and stabilized earth's air and water chemistry until now. Their working together led to new shapes, sizes and complexities, evolving into ever new and more diverse life-forms.

REFLECTION

Simple little life forms remind us that life is so amazing, abundant, creative, inventive and wise! All life is still bursting forth in beauty, filled with tangible evidence of that creativity at work in our evolving universe. It is time to embrace this universe, this miracle of energy, to realize how lavishly we are loved, and give back all the love we have!

Now I walk in beauty
Beauty is before me.
Beauty is behind me
Above and below me.
Libana

Visit your favourite place, and marvel in the beauty and life that comes forth from Mother Earth.

Image: "Life Emerging" by Anne Camozzi, Courtesy of www.ministryofthearts.org
Reflection material adapted from *Once upon a Universe in Story and Song*