



Then Flowers Came and Changed the World

CONSIDER

If the whole life span of the fourteen-billion year old Universe were but one year, it was not until the 28th December that earth brought forth flowers! They emerged secretly at first, during the great, green, slow moving earth period of the dinosaurs. Afterwards the presence of flowers rapidly changed the face of earth. Colour erupted everywhere in flowering plants and trees, which gave birth to fruit and seeds. These provided rich foods that sparked the emergence of new species of animals, insects and birds, and then mammals.

Thus began the Cenozoic era, the time of earth's greatest, most colourful beauty and biological diversity. It is the world we have known, our Sacred Earth garden.

REFLECTION

Become still...remember. In your mind's eye, recall the most amazing garden, hillside, bush, open area you ever saw that was covered with flowers. Take a long look and recall the scene with as much vivid details as possible. See the most fragile flower there, the most intricate, the strongest, the flower that made you gasp from the beauty. Allow your sense to remember colours, shapes, sizes and smells. Give thanks for the wonderment and joy you experienced, and give thanks for the blessing of flowers.

Imagine another barren place, lacking in colour, fragrance and life. There are many forms of barrenness-devoid of life and growth, devoid of peace and harmony, scarred by battles and war.

What can you do to bring colour into such places?

Image: "How Flowers Changed the World" by Mary Southard, Courtesy of www.ministryofthearts.org
Reflection material adapted from *Once upon a Universe in Story and Song*