



Cataclysm:

A Pattern of the Universe

CONSIDER

Cataclysm is one of the “powers” of the Universe; that is, the Universe destroys some of its achievements as a necessary condition for new creativity.

The explosive death of our supernova gave birth to our solar system. The food crisis of the first life forms precipitated the invention of photosynthesis. The deadly build up of oxygen, the waste product of photosynthesis, brought a new collaboration between ‘breathers’ and ‘non-breathers’ to form nucleated cells. This breakthrough led to ever more complex and diverse life forms inventing shells, brains, backbones, fins, lungs...

Cataclysm uplifted tectonic plates and volcanic eruptions sent rock and lava bursting forth from earth’s fiery core and land began to push up from the ocean floor. Soon plants and animals, as they began to move ashore, evolved new forms and structures.

Just 65 million years ago, the impact of a giant asteroid ended the long reign of the dinosaurs. In their absence, new and radically amazing life forms were able to unfold the bountiful and gorgeous web of life that we enjoy today.

REFLECTION

We cannot deny difficulties and disappointments-our lives are filled with them. We know first hand about confusion and conflict and how our frailty pushes us to sometimes tighten and withdraw. We also know that life can be found in hardship and pain.

We are living during a period of mass extinction, induced in no small way by patterns of human production and consumption. All of life is sacred. The whole earth community is interconnected. We can and need to make a difference.

Be an active participant in World Environment Day activities. Visit the web site <http://www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/> for daily tips leading up to 5 June, and continue them after that day.

Image: “Cataclysm” by Mary Southard. Courtesy of www.ministryofthearts.org
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