



Our Ancient Ancestors shape life and community

CONSIDER

With global warming, we awaken to an urgent, many faceted planetary crisis of great magnitude. As we recall Earth's 4.5 billion year "success story", and our own human arrogance that has led us to this point of crisis, we are invited to a new humility. We are reminded of the simple cells who, 3.8bya, brought about a global food crisis, but were able to reinvent themselves and create photosynthesis! That was their moment of creative transformation. This is ours.

REFLECTION

Meditate on the image that accompanies this reflection. Consider/remember the excitement that accompanied the release of the first images of Earth from space in 1969.

Recall now what might be causing Earth to wear a crown of thorns: loss of rainforests and species, desertification and the human suffering that it causes, rising sea levels dislocating people from their homes, culture and traditions, extreme and severe weather events...

Read this piece by Drew Dellinger from *Hieroglyphic Stairway*, and decide what you will do today, this week, this month, this year.

*it's 3.23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great-great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
what did you do while the earth was unraveling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?
as mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?
...what did you do once you knew?*

Image: "Passion of Earth II" by Mary Southard, Courtesy of www.ministryofhearts.org
Reflection material adapted from *Once upon a Universe in Story and Song*