



## Awakening to the Great Story

### **What time is it?**

We find ourselves in the midst of a profound moment of revelation of our great peril. Signs of the diminishment of earth and life are everywhere: destruction of species, loss of habitat, oil spills, chemical pollution of water, air and soil, global warming, increased human violence, oppressions... We are distressed to realize that this is as a result of our human activity.

At the same time, a revelation of great promise is occurring - the story of the origin and nature of the universe. This new information is so far beyond our earlier imaginings and is powerfully affecting our self understanding, our religious sensitivities, and our sense of meaning. We begin to realize how intimately interconnected we humans are with every other being, within one sacred community of life. We are discovering through science what our indigenous ancestors and the mystics knew "All is ONE".

Online viewing: <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=sliW9yM-wwc&feature=related>

### **Song: *This One Story***

In this one story is all our stories, filled with promise and possibility.  
In this one story, that we are learning, is hope for finding our true identity.  
So listen well and open up our hearts. It's time for us to make a brand new start.  
Earth is waiting to see what humans will choose.  
Earth is waiting to see what humans will choose.  
from *Songs of the Universe* Kathy Sherman

### **Reading from the Preamble to the Earth Charter**

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future...the future holds at once great peril and promise...Humanity is a part of an evolving universe. Earth, our home is alive with a unique community of life.

Image: "The Great Story, by Mary Southard, CSJ. Courtesy of [www.ministryofthearts.org](http://www.ministryofthearts.org)  
Reflection material adapted from *Once Upon a Universe in Story and Song*



## How the Universe Began...

Suddenly, everything burst forth from a single point...light, heat, energy, erupting with the brilliance of a trillion stars, and the power of a million hurricanes -THE PRIMEVAL FIREBALL!

Thus 13.7 billion years ago, the Universe, pregnant with possibility, flared forth in every direction, creating time and space, and all the protons that would ever exist! After a million years,

the Universe spread out enough and cooled down enough that the very first atoms began to form, hydrogen first, then helium. Vast clouds of these atoms gathered in the expanding space. The Fireball was ended. The age of matter had begun.

### Light your favourite candle. Let the Mystery enter you...

*In the moment when time and space began I was there and so were you.  
Everything was there,  
In that moment when time and space began.*

Song: *In the Moment when Time and Space Began*, K Sherman

**Meditation:** Consider the painting, *Beyond Silence*, for a while. What do you see, feel? What images arise, what insights, what responses?

Imagine - no time, no space, nothing - total silence, absolute nothingness.  
Then, imagine everything bursting forth from a tiny point - energy, power, light, time-gushing forth, creating space as it expands.

Love, no longer able to contain itself, Love comes flaring forth in every direction!  
The primordial universe!

### Pause for journaling and/or sharing

**Conclusion:** As you hold your candle and feel its heat, thank our Creator for our wonder-filled Universe, our wonder-filled Selves.

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Image: *Beyond Silence*, by Nancy Earle, SMIC. Courtesy of [www.ministryofhearts.org](http://www.ministryofhearts.org)  
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