

AWAKENING



TO THE SACRED

Paula Gonzalez, SC

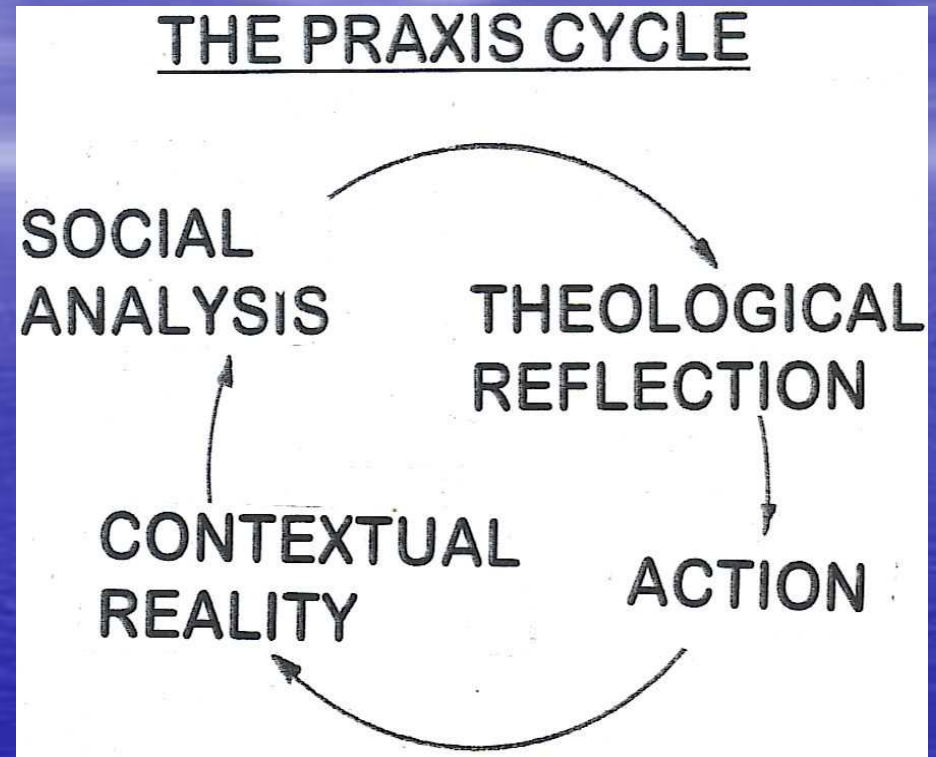
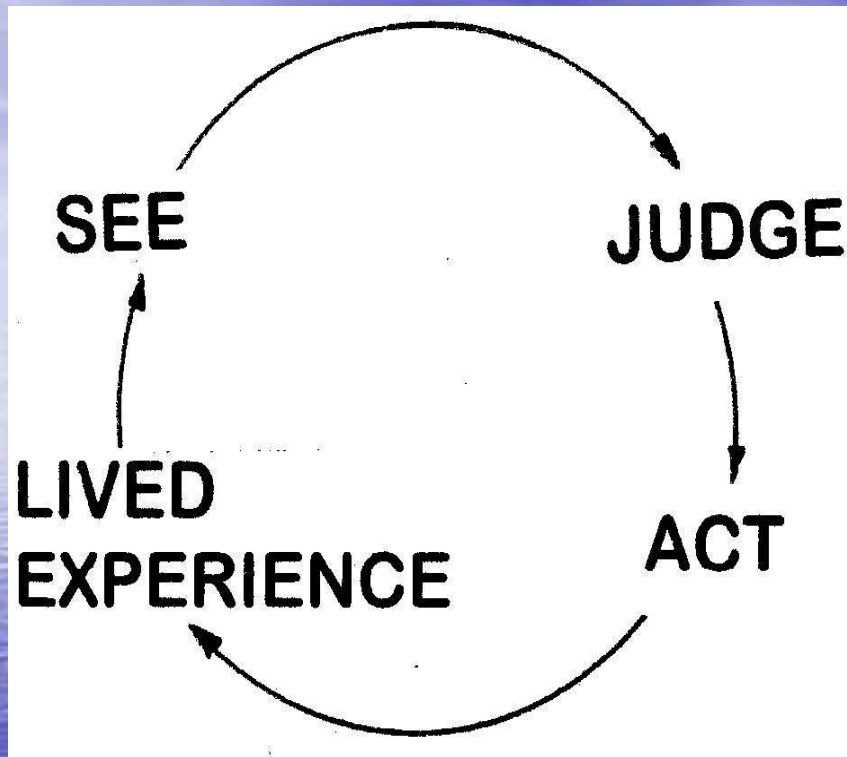
Liberation theology has

DEMOCRATIZED THEOLOGY

as the right and responsibility
of

EVERY CHRISTIAN.

Sallie McFague



REALITY – Everyday events, ‘news’

See through the eyes of faith

SOCIAL ANALYSIS – Serious thinking

What is God saying to me?

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION – Look

prayerfully at what you see

What is God asking of me?

ACTION

Am I willing to do God’s will?

At all times the Church carries
the responsibility of
reading
the signs of the times
and of interpreting them in the
light of the Gospel – if it is to
carry out its task.

Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

Paula Gonzalez, SC

Let us ponder
the signs:

VIOLENT
CONFLICTS

SOCIAL
AND
ECONOMIC
INEQUITY

ECOLOGICAL
DEVASTATION



What might happen if we saw
that today's
enormous challenges
are signs that we live at
one of
the MAJOR TURNING
POINTS
in human history?

THE HUMAN STORY

TRIBAL

EMPIRE

PLANETARY

Sustainable

Increasingly unsustainable

Sustainable??

We stand at a
critical moment in
Earth's history -
a time when humanity
must
CHOOSE ITS FUTURE.

As the world becomes
increasingly
interdependent and fragile,
the future at once holds

GREAT PERIL

and

GREAT PROMISE.

Preamble – Earth Charter

GIFTED WITH "NEW LENSES"...

- ❖ Seeing our Earth from space
Interconnectedness
Finiteness
- ❖ Seeing 'Creation' as Earth's "story" ...
an emerging process
- ❖ Re-envisioning the human role
in the Sacred Earth Community

For those who REALLY LOOK
the natural world is “**revelatory**”...
(of the secrets of the universe??
of the divine??)

Science is **ONE WAY** in which humans
study that revelation.

Science and religion both ask the
“Why?” question
(...asked in awe and humility)

In 1969 each of us "had a vision"...



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My view of our planet was

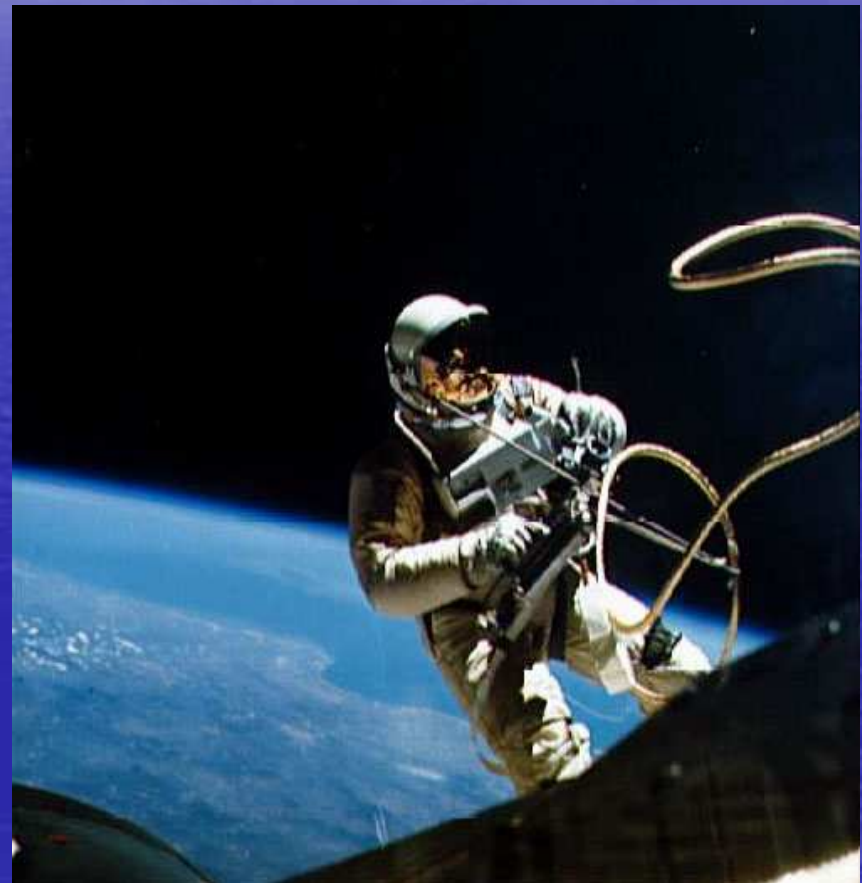
a glimpse of divinity.

Edgar Mitchell, USA

- When I saw it from space - in all its beauty and fragility - I saw our *most urgent task* -- to cherish and preserve it.

Sigmund Jahn, GDR

Paula Gonzalez, SC



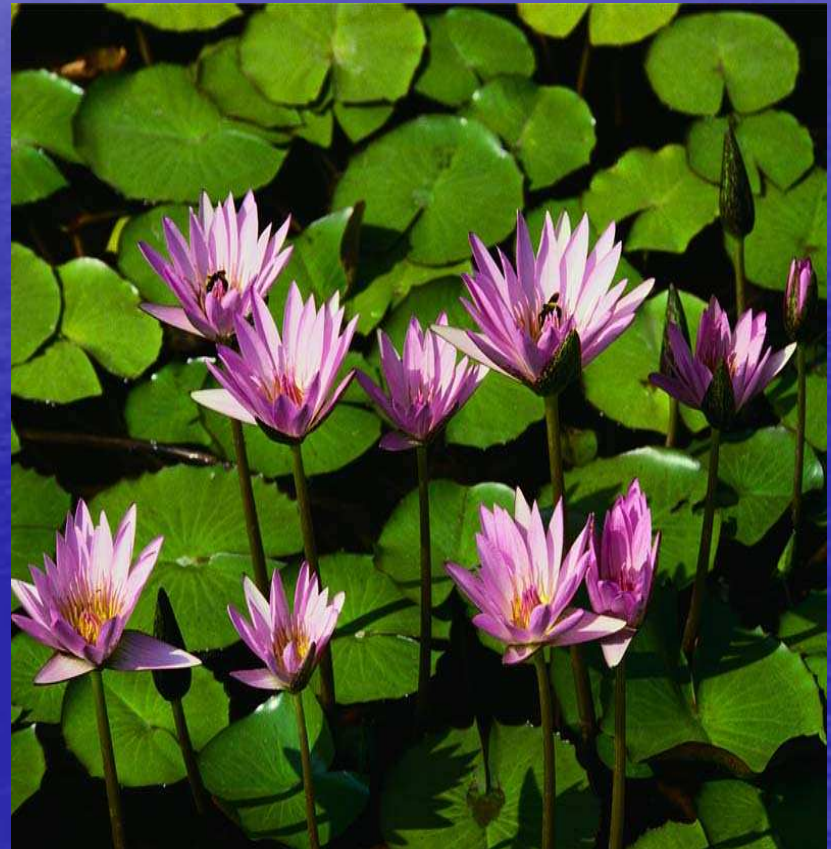
For those
who know how to see...
nothing is profane –
EVERYTHING
IS
SACRED.

Teilhard de Chardin

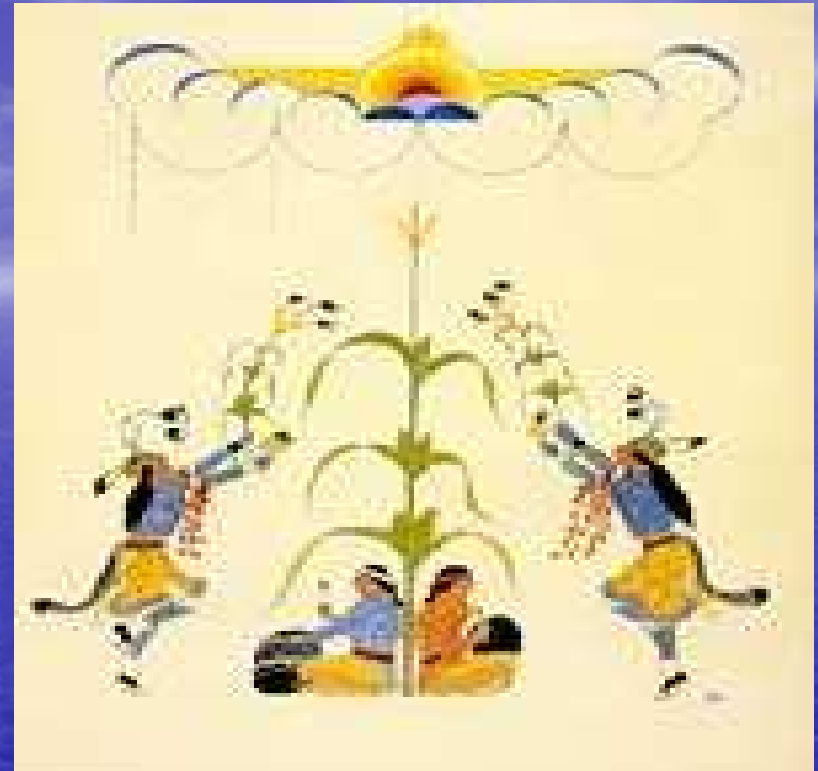
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CREATION IS AN ICON OF GOD --

A window into
the nature
of the
Divine.



Indigenous peoples
acknowledge and
respond
to the divine disclosure
from an
innate, primordial
sense of the
sacred.



THE DIVINE 'SPARK' WITHIN
SENSES THE DIVINE ENERGY
ALL AROUND.

Diarmuid O'Murchu

Every single
creature
is full of
God -
and is
a book
about God.

Meister Eckhart





The universe is the
primary sacred community

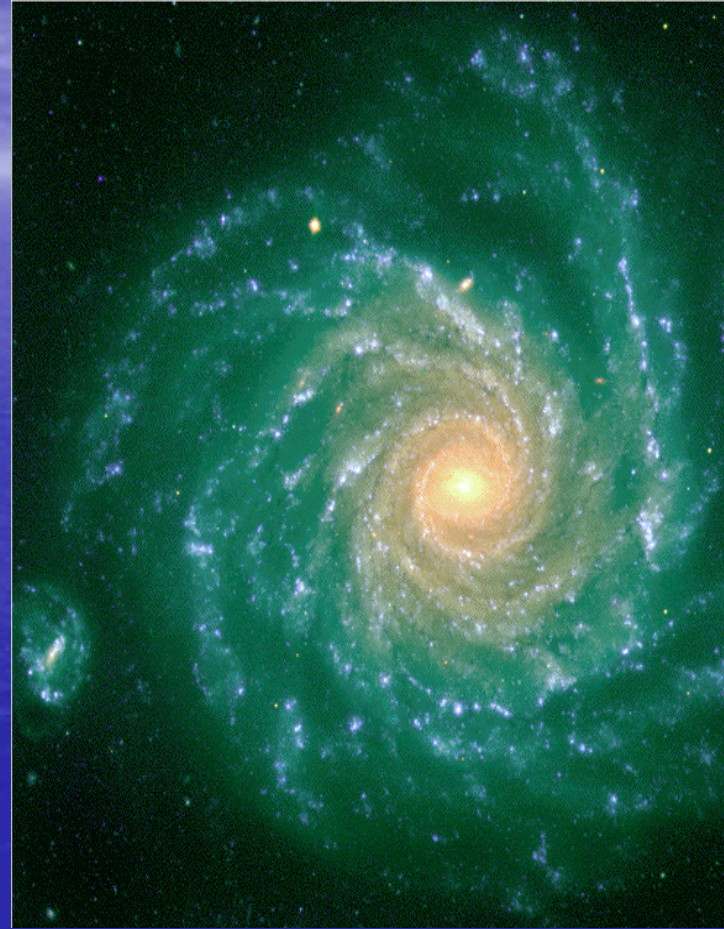
It is the way in which
the divine
is presently revealing itself to
us.

THE EARTH CHARTER

A declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century:

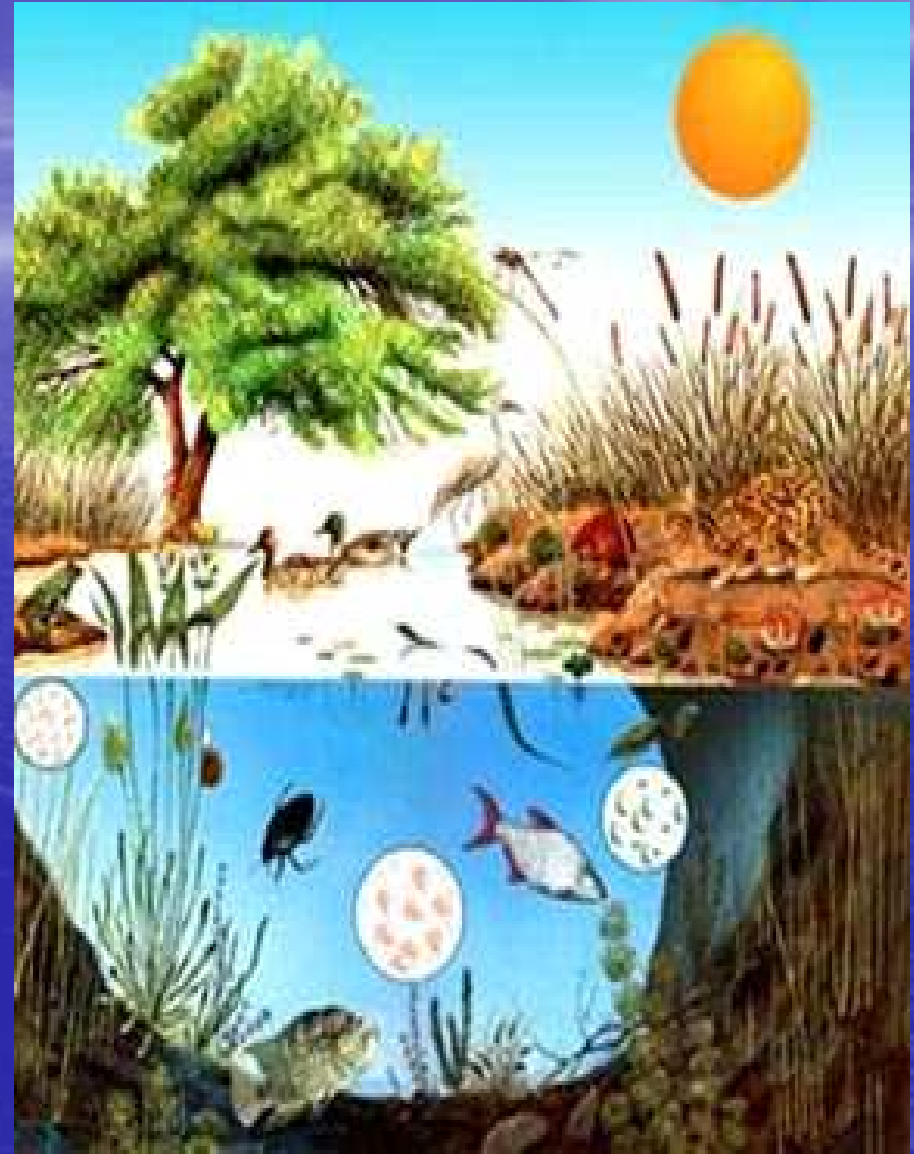
- Respect and care for the community of life
- Ecological integrity
- Social and economic justice
- Democracy, nonviolence and peace

Humanity
is
part of
a vast
evolving
Universe -



EARTH,
OUR HOME,
is alive
with a
unique
community
of life.

Preamble - Earth Charter

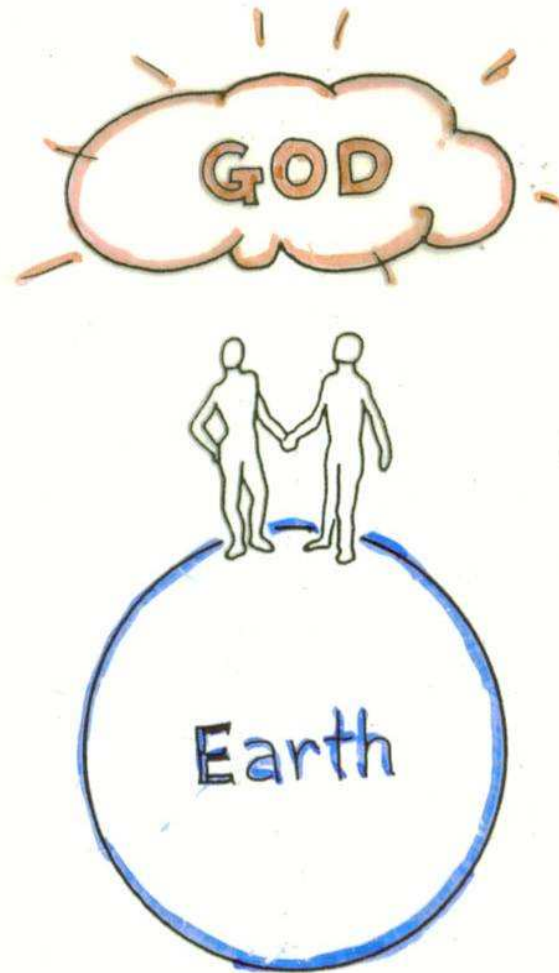


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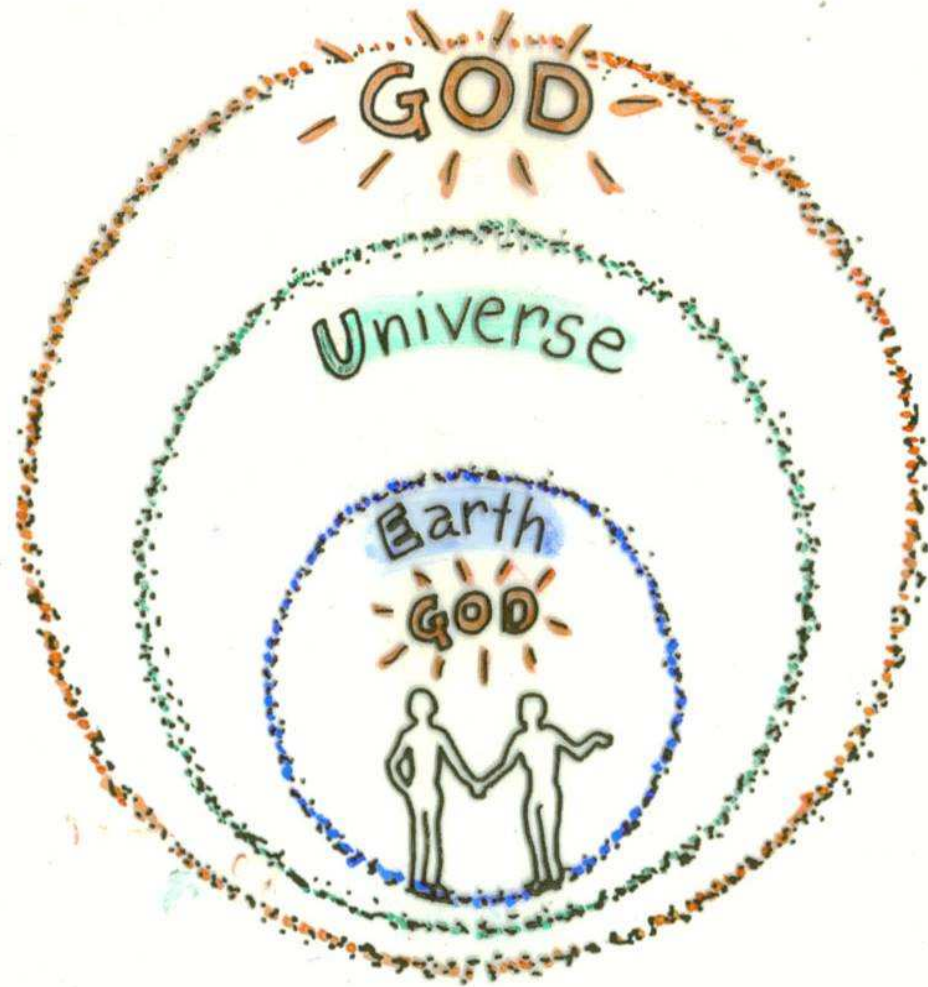
WE
ARE
PART OF
“NATURE”
NOT OVER IT !

Paula Gonzalez, SC

The Old Cosmology



The New Cosmology



The **MOST STUNNING**
DISCOVERY

of the 20th century -

that

THE UNIVERSE

is a

STORY.

Brian Swimme

Paula Gonzalez, SC

We have always read Genesis
with the 6th day
as our focus.

The idea is deep within us
that we humans are the
ONLY creatures
"made in the image and
likeness of God".



**‘REVELATORY’
LOOKS
AT
TIME AND SPACE**

Paula Gonzalez, SC

A 'Revelatory' Look at Time

Genesis 1:1-31

- 1 - Light (day/night)
- 2 - Separated water
- 3 - Dry land, vegetation
- 4 - Sun, moon, stars
- 5 - Ocean creatures, birds
- 6 - Land creatures

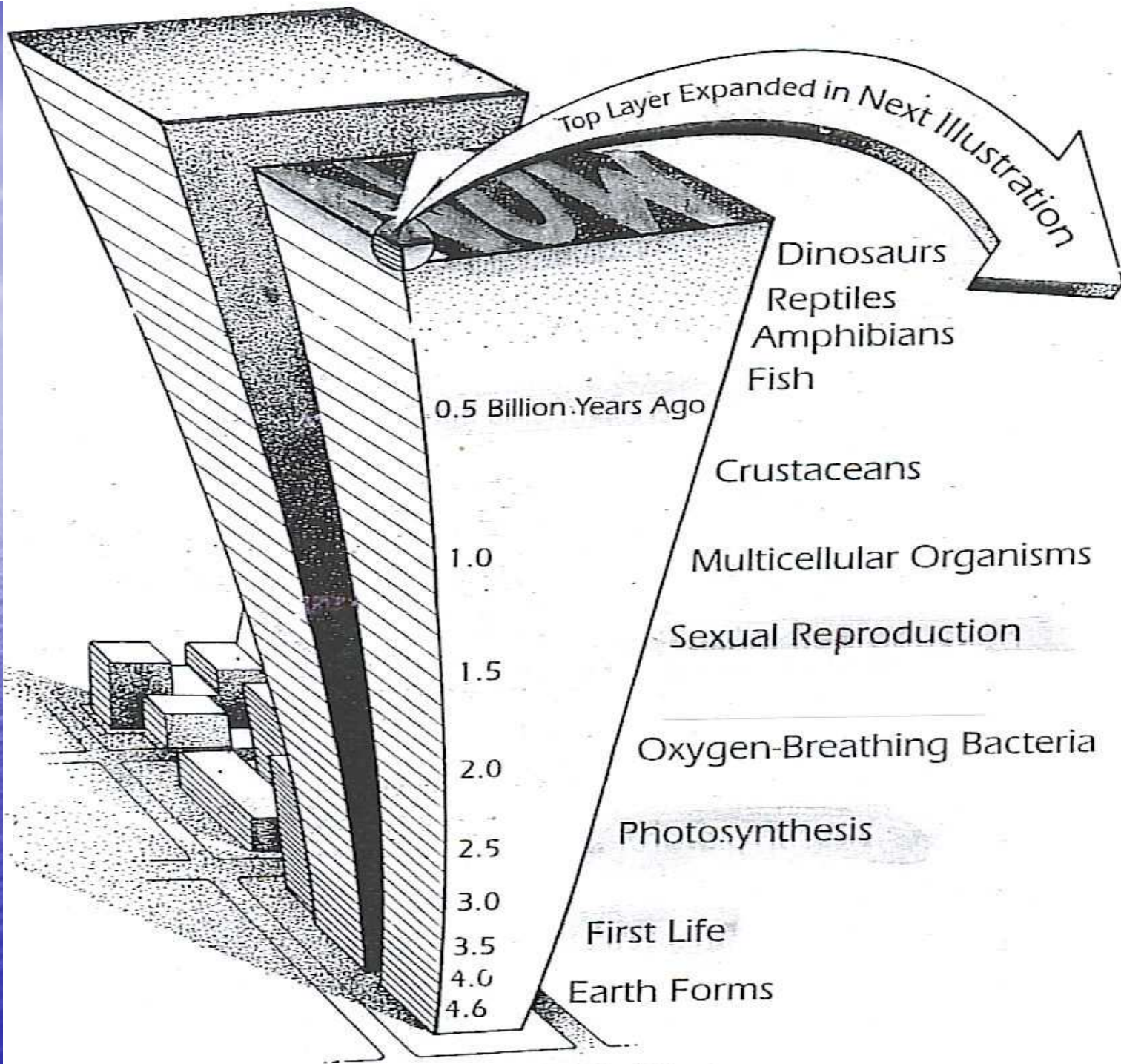
Cosmic Year – Sagan

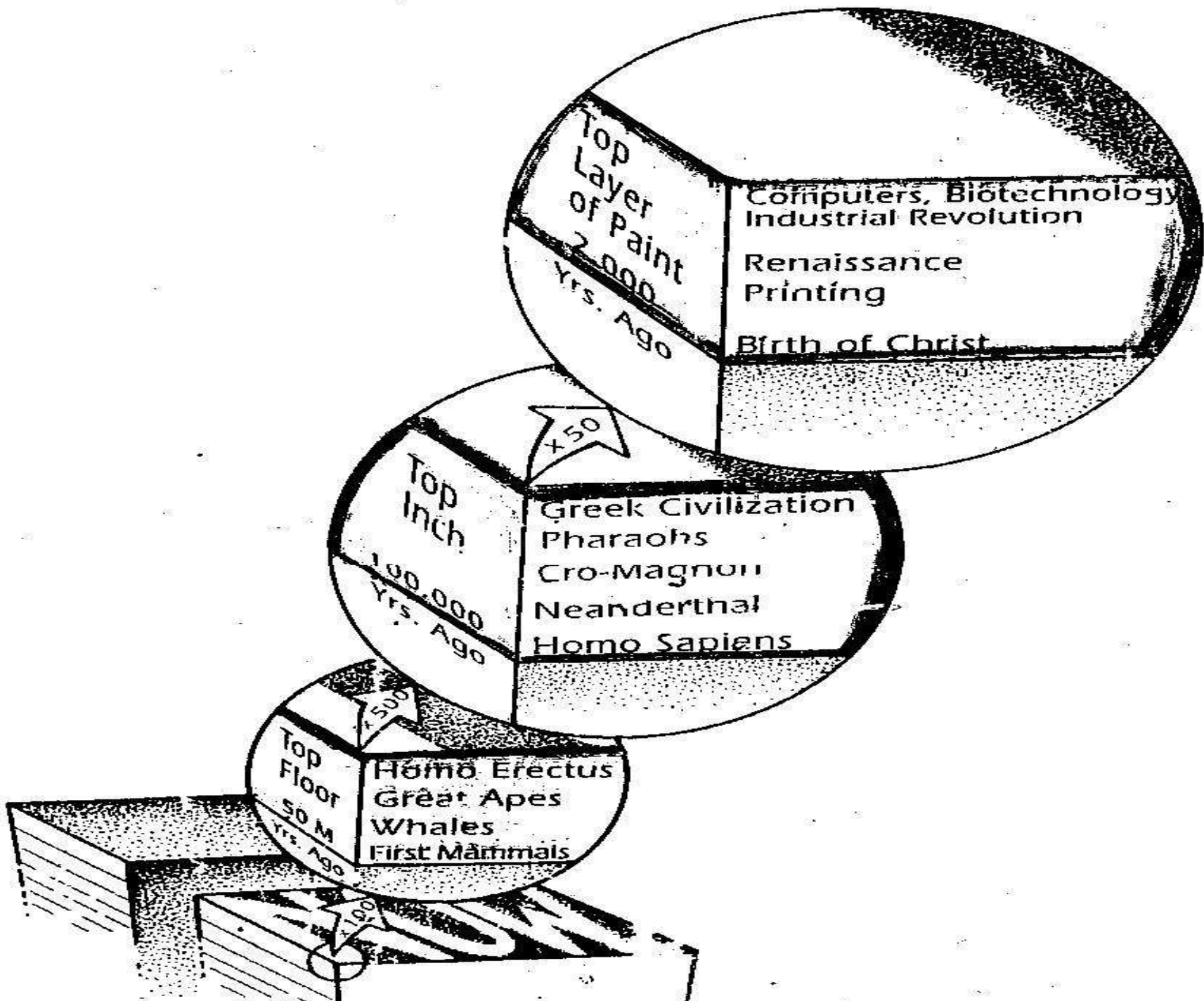
- Jan 1 - Big Bang
- May 1 - Milky Way Galaxy
- Sep 9 - Our solar system
- Sep 27- Beginning of life
- Nov 1 - Invention of sex
- Dec 1 - Multicellular life
- On Land
- Dec 2 - Insects
- Dec 30- First hominids
- Dec 31, 11:59 pm
- Homo sapiens**



A Spatial Look at Earth's Story

Paula Gonzalez, SC





From the epic story of the
Universe's evolution
as told by scientists
WE BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND
OUR HUMAN IDENTITY
with ALL the other modes of
existence that constitute the
single universe community.

Thomas Berry

Paula Gonzalez, SC

The Word prolongs the
unending act

of God's own birth --

**By virtue of God's immersion in
the world's womb,**

the great waters

of the kingdom of matter have

-without even a ripple -

been imbued with life.

The
Immense
host

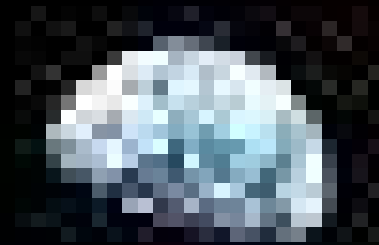
which is
THE
UNIVERSE

is made flesh.

Teilhard de Chardin



**Like the astronauts we are called to see
our home in a whole new way!**



Paula Gonzalez, SC

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history – **a time when humanity must CHOOSE ITS FUTURE.**



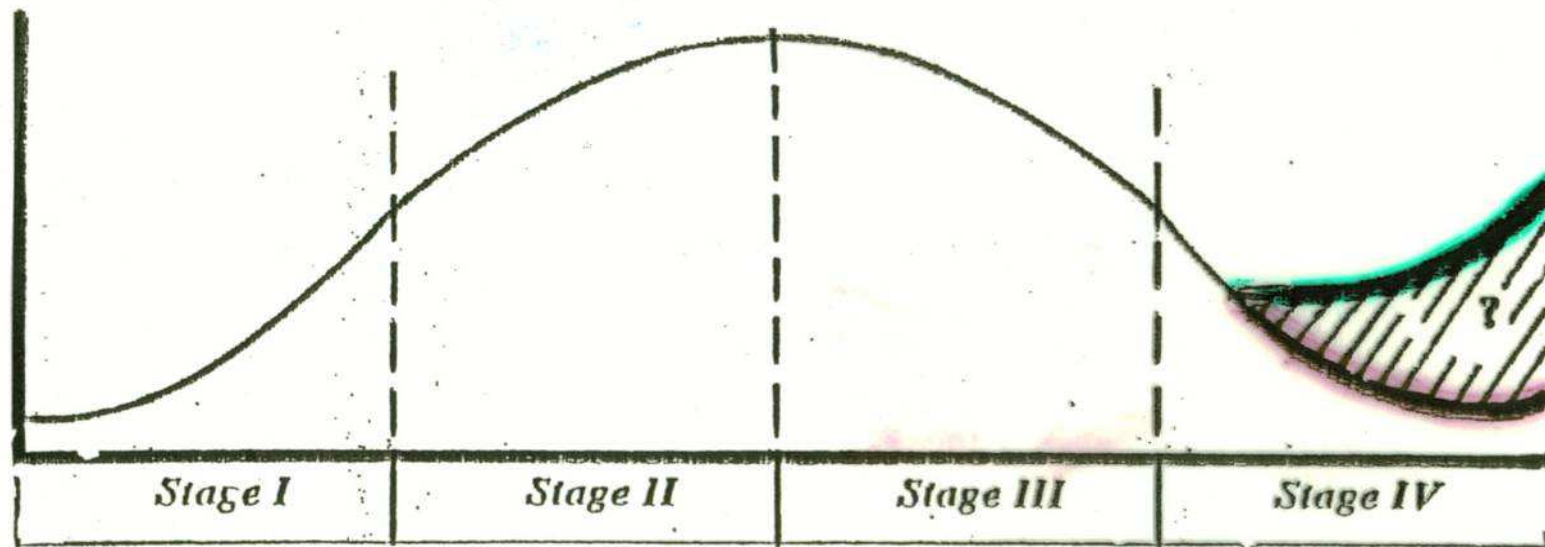
To take control of our future
we must have a vision
of how we would like
human society to be.

Paula Gonzalez, SC

The present --

Chaos or invitation to transformation

LIFE CYCLE OF WESTERN INDUSTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS



**High
Growth**

**Full
Blossoming**

**Initial
Decline**

**Break-
down**

CRISIS

危機

Wei chi (Chinese Symbol)

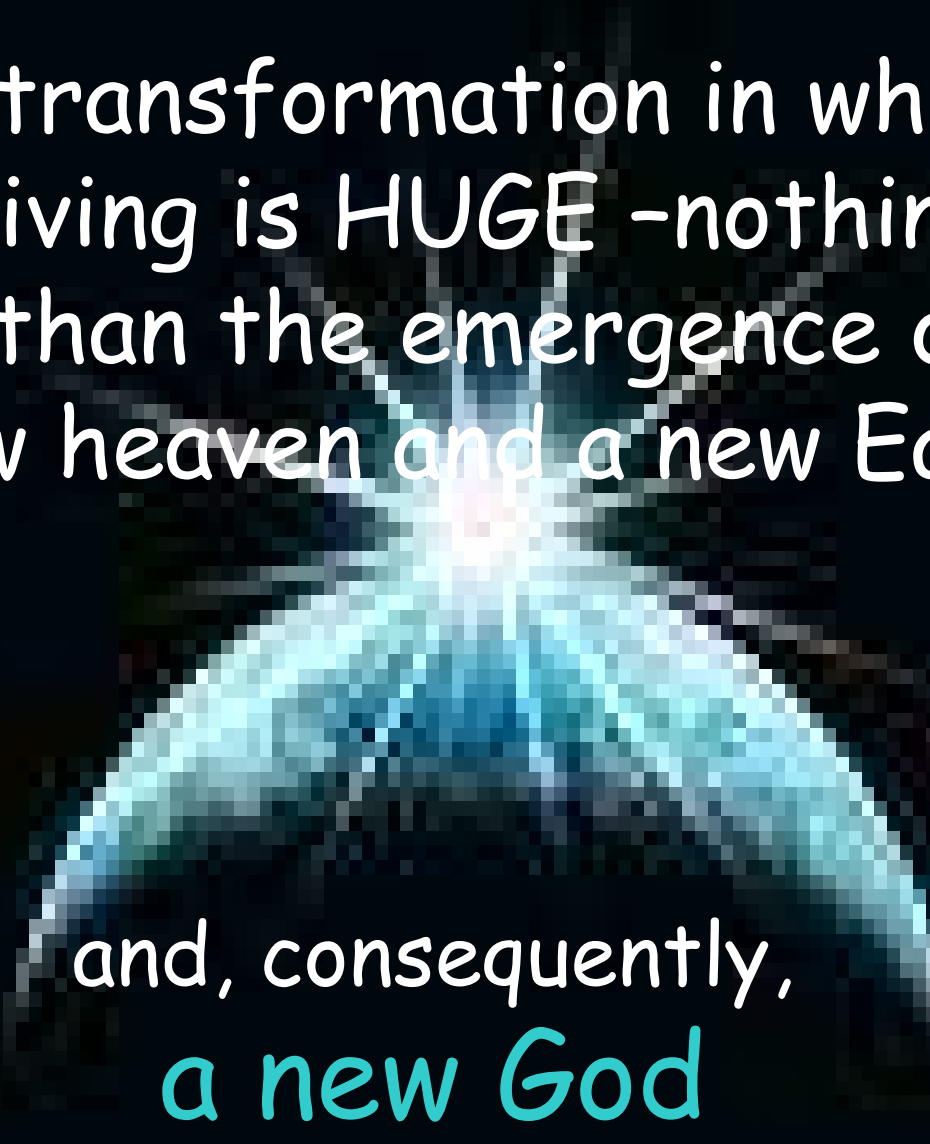
DANGER OR OPPORTUNITY?



GLOBAL
TRANSFORMATION

ORGANIZATION
TRANSFORMATION

PERSONAL
TRANSFORMATION



The transformation in which we
are living is HUGE -nothing less
than the emergence of
a new heaven and a new Earth --

and, consequently,
a new God
and a new humanity.

L. Robert Keck in Sacred Eyes

We have entered a new age –
an age where all of us will have to
sign a new compact with our
environment... and enter into
the larger community of all
living beings.

A new sense of communion
with planet Earth
must enter our minds.

Klaus Toepfer, Exec. Dir, UNEP

Our moment of history
calls us to
an **integrative,**
contemplative spirituality.

Our guide?

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

Spirituality is the
central concern
of the ‘new cosmology’.
It seeks to explore
our spiritual inheritance
over the 70,000 years
before religions evolved.

The **retrieval of spirituality**
as the
primary dynamic
of human spiritual growth
may be
the supreme challenge
facing humanity
in the new millennium.

Diarmuid O'Murchu

Up until now, to adore
meant to prefer God to
things by sacrificing
them to God.

Now,
adoration
means joining our
creative activity
to God's
to bring
the world
to fulfillment by
effort and
intellectual
exploration.

Teilhard de Chardin

