## The Story of Creation 2.0

Written for Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012 by Norman Lévesque, Theologian and Scientific Educator

> <sup>1.</sup> In the beginning God already existed. He created Wisdom to stay by his side as a master worker. The universe was compressed into a chaotic ball and the Spirit of God hovered above this chaos.

2. With his Word, God said: 'Let there be light' and there was light. God created the universe in a blinding explosion that spread in all directions. The energy dispersed, the universe cooled and God separated the light from the darkness. God also created hydrogen, the first element. 13.7 billion years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

3. With his Word, God said: 'Let matter diversify into a multiplicity of elements'. Thus, over-massive stars exploded and liberated different elements by the hundred, elements such as oxygen, carbon, nitrogen and iron. From stardust came new solar systems, stars, planets, moons. 5 billion years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

<sup>4.</sup> With his Word, God said: 'Let water circulate on certain planets'. So the rocky surface of certain planets was covered with liquids and gases that circulated as soon as the rock cooled. Thus, the first rains could fall, to form the first rivers and the first oceans. 4.5 billion years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

5. Then God chose the planet Earth, third from the Sun, covered mainly with water. There He chose lovingly to fashion life.

6. With his Word, God said: 'Let life appear in the water and let there be an atmosphere'. So blue-green algae multiplied in all the oceans and generated oxygen to compose our atmosphere. From the very beginning God blessed life. 2.5 billion years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

7. With his Word, God said: 'Let the seas teem with living creatures' and so it was. In all the seas invertebrates of all kinds multiplied. One billion years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

8. With his Word, God said: 'Let fish swim in the seas' and so it was. God created vertebrate fish and blessed their fertility. 490 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

9. Then God chose the land mass as a new place to establish life. The rock on the continent was to become fertile soil.

10. With his Word, God said: 'Let the earth put forth vegetation' and so it was. The land produced plants: grasses bearing seed according to their species, trees bearing seed or fruit according to their kind. 430 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

11. With his Word, God said: 'Let the earth teem with all kinds of insects' and so it was. God created insects that inhabited all kinds of improbable places on Earth and gave them multiple useful functions. God blessed them with fertility. 415 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

12. With his Word, God said: 'Let amphibians and reptiles walk on the land' and so it was. Thanks to amphibians, vertebrate animals could now move around the land. God created reptiles according to their kind, from the most minute to the huge dinosaurs. God blessed their fertility. 360 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

13. Enormous meteorites struck Earth, making dust rise and obscuring the sky. There were five major periods when species became extinct. Yet each time that chaos reappeared, God chose to re-instate order.

14. With his Word, God said: 'Let there be flowers to beautify Earth' and so it was. God created new species of flowering plants and blessed them with most beautiful apparel. God made a great garden of the Earth. 160 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

15. With his Word, God said: 'Let birds fly in the sky' and so it was. God created birds according to their species. God blessed their fecundity. 150 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

16. With his Word, God said: 'Let mammals walk and run on the land' and so it was. God created mammals according to their species: rodents, ruminants, carnivores, marsupials. God also created primates. God blessed their fecundity. 65 million years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was good.

17. Then God chose the human being, who has fine-tuned hands and an extremely developed brain. He wanted to make of this creature a free and creative being.

18. With his Word, God said: 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them reign over every other living thing.' God created humans in his image, male and female he created. God gave them a conscience so that they would collaborate with Creation and God said to them 'Love the earth and observe that creatures are interdependent. Develop the earth and its' resources in sustainable fashion, because it is the earth that enables me to provide for the needs of all my creatures. If you respect the sacred equilibrium, conceived with Wisdom, you will have life in abundance.' God blessed them with their fertility, their intelligence, and their compassion. 200 thousand years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was very good.

19. With his Word, God said: 'Let there be days of rest and days of festivities', and so it was. The perpetual cycle of seven days began, so that once every week, after six days of labor, the Creator and his creatures meet, in silence and in song. God also created festival days in a multitude of cultures. Hearing them sing, God saw that it was very good.

20. Then the Word became flesh and lived among us. Christ spoke to humanity 'Love one another, as I have loved you'. His Creative word healed the sick, forgave sinners, set free the excluded. He died for love of Creation, so that Creation could be renewed, and God restored him to life. 2000 years ago a new era began, and God saw that it was very good.

21. God chose life from the very beginning, and still provides for all of his Creation.