

This is how God created the universe, one day at a time.

In the beginning, there was nothing - no earth, no sky, no moon, no sun, no day, no night. So God said, "Let there be light!"

And it happened!

There was light, which God separated from the dark. One came after the other, and the first day went by.

Then God said, "We'll have to do something about the water. It's all over the place! Hmm... I know! We'll separate the water from the sky."

And that's exactly what happened, all on the second day.

On the third day, God looked and said, "There's lots of water, but not much else. What we need is earth to grow things in."

So he created continents and islands so that the water was pushed aside. And in from the beaches, on the fertile plains, all sorts of green plants grew and seeds spread on the wind, and pretty soon the earth was covered with grass and flowers and trees.

And God looked at it all and said. "That looks pretty!"

Then God said, "The sky looks a bit ordinary to me. We need some decoration, and some warmth to keep the greenery growing, and light to cheer up the night sky."

So he spread the Milky Way across the sky, and played <lot-to-dot with the stars, so that the Southern Cross and the Big Dipper and other constellations appeared. Then he tossed the sun and moon into their orbits, sat back and said, "Now this is looking *really* good."

By then the fourth day had been and gone.

The next day, God was admiring the garden he had planted and said, "I have a wonderful idea. All this greenery and water

could sustain a lot of life. And the colour and movement would be wonderful!"

So he thought about parrots and eagles and sparrows and magpies and willy wag tails - in fact it wasn't long before the trees and sky were full of colourful birds of all kinds, and the air was full of birdsong. And as for the seas - well! They positively teemed with sharks and stingrays and snapper and whiting and prawns and crabs and whales and porpoises and all kinds of swimming creatures!

So at the end of the fifth day God sat back and said, "This looks *very* good indeed!"

The next morning God was enjoying his creation, when he had a brilliant idea. What about animals?!

So he set about making little creatures, like bilbies and butterflies and mice and spiders, and middle-sized things, like dogs and cats and horses and camels and gnus, and really, REALLY big things, like elephants and hippos and rhinos and giraffes. What's more, he made them to do what comes naturally, and laughed with delight at the antics of puppies and kittens and cubs and fawns.

But it wasn't quite enough, so God said, "I really want to make a creature that will be my friend, someone I can walk with and talk with and share my deepest longings with. In fact, a creature made in my own image! This creature has to be something special!"

So he played around with some good earth and fashioned a creature like no other, and he breathed life into this creature and called him 'Adam.' And so that Adam wouldn't be lonely, he made Eve as a companion and mate.

So at the end of the sixth day, God looked at all he had made and said, "Now it's perfect! This is very, *very*, VERY good!!!"

And on the seventh day, after all that work. God gave himself a well-earned rest.

# IN THE BEGINNING

(Genesis)



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