



Sayings

“So long as mists envelop you, be still; be still until the sunlight pours through and dispels the mists -- as it surely will. Then act with courage. When you are in doubt, be still, and wait; when doubt no longer exists for you, then go forward with courage.”

- **Chief White Eagle, politician, civil rights activist, hereditary chief of the Ponca**

The Creed of St. Patrick

Our God is the God of all humans,
the God of heaven and earth
the God of sea and rivers,
the God of sun and moon,
the God of all the heavenly bodies,
the God of the lofty mountains,
the God of the lowly valleys.

God is above the heavens:
and he is beneath the heavens.
Heaven and earth and sea,
and everything that is in them,
such he has as his abode.

He inspires all things,
he gives life to all things,
he stands above all things,
and he stands beneath all things.

He enlightens the light of the sun,
he strengthens the light of the night and the stars,

he makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea,
and he places the stars in the service of the greater lights.

He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself,
and similar in all respects to himself;
and neither is the Son younger than the Father,
nor is the Father older than the Son;
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable.

Amen.

Einstein - Relationship is All

“A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”

- Albert Einstein, “Letter of 1950,” New York Times, (March 29, 1972)

“If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools, and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty, and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter...”

- **Joe Miller**

“Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book, the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead God set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?”

- **St. Augustine - 5th century**

“Therefore, whoever is not enlightened by such great splendor in created things is blind: whoever remains unheeded of such great outcries is deaf: whoever does not praise God in all these effects is dumb; whoever does not turn to the First Principle after so many signs is a fool. Open your eyes, therefore; alert the ears of your spirit; unlock your lips and apply your heart that you may see, hear, praise, love and adore; magnify and honor your God in every creature, lest perchance, the entire universe rise up against you.”

- **St Bonaventure – 13th century**

Behold This Newborn Child

Joyce Rupp

Each time a child is born...
we sense that life goes on.
All is not lost. There is a deep resilience within,
stronger than the grasp of death.

The babe is lifted high
toward the welcoming stars,
a young life
with just a kernel of ripening,
a new resident
in the heart of existence.

All those gathered proclaim:
"Behold, behold this newborn one!
Let us nurture and keep alive
the sacred mystery of hope
hallowed in this babe's heart.

"We sow our dreams of a future
in this freshly birthed being.
We give our loving promise
to guide and guard this child.
Always we will remember
our oneness in the dancing cosmos."

The stars say not a word.
They bow in reverence to this creature,
whose adult hands will hold
power enough
to destroy a planet
or seed a waiting garden.

The stars indeed smile
for they too have hope,
and night
turns toward the dawn.

"All the creatures are like letters proclaiming in loud voices to their Divine Master and Creator the harmony and order of things. For this reason, God gave creation such order as if found therein, so that while He is by nature invisible, [people] might yet be able to know Him through His works."

- **St Athanasius (297-373)**

"I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you a clear remembrance of the Creator. . . . One blade of grass or one speck of dust is enough to occupy your entire mind in beholding the art with which it has been made."

- **St. Basil the Great (329-379)**

"If I put my cheek against the earth's body, I feel the pulse of God."

- **Meister Eckhart – 14th century**

"God is the foundation for everything. This God undertakes, God gives, such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.

Holy persons draw to themselves all that is earthly. . . . The earth is at the same time mother. She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She

is mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. . . . All creation comes from it. Yet if forms not only the basic material for humans but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son."

- **Hildegard of Bingen – 12th century**

"The world is the theatre of God's glory."

- **John Calvin - 16th century**

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

- **Indigenous proverb**

"In God's wildness lies the hope of the world."

- **John Muir**

"Why did God create man only on the sixth day? To warn him. If he ever becomes swollen with pride it can be pointed out to him that in God's creation of the world even a flea came ahead of him."

- **Rabbinic saying on Genesis 1**

"Earth's crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God'
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

- **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

"Everything that could sing was singing.
Everything that could move was moving.
And what couldn't move was shining."

- **George MacDonald,
Scottish preacher and author**

"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living things which are part of one another and all involved in one another."

- **Thomas Merton**

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

- **Rachel Carson**

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

- **From the Great Law of the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy**

“In the Divine calendar, this is still the morning of creation.”

- **John Muir**

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

- **Wendell Berry**

“To become human, you must make room in yourself for the immensities of the universe.”

- **South American Native Peoples**

“My scripture is the world of created things, and any time I wish to read the word of God, the book is open before me.”

- **Saint Anthony of the Desert – 3rd Century**

“A charitable heart . . . is a heart which is burning with love for the whole of creation. . . . He who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without his eyes being filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes his heart; a heart which is softened and can no longer bear to see

or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain,
being inflicted upon a creature.”

- **St. Isaac the Syrian - 7th century**

“An absence of a sense of the sacred is the basic flaw in many of our efforts at ecologically or environmentally adjusting our human presence to the natural world. It has been said, “We will not save what we do not love.” It is also true that we will neither love nor save what we do not experience as sacred.

“There is a certain futility in the efforts being made – truly sincere, dedicated, and intelligent efforts – to remedy our environmental devastation simply by activating renewable sources of energy and by reducing the deleterious impact of the industrial world. The difficulty is that the natural world is seen primarily for human use, not a mode of sacred presence primarily to be communed with in wonder and beauty and intimacy. In our present attitude the natural world remains a commodity to be bought and sold, not a sacred reality to be venerated. The deep psychic change needed to withdraw us from the fascination of the industrial world, and the deceptive gifts that it gives us, is too difficult for simply the avoidance of its difficulties or the attractions of its benefits. Eventually only our sense of the sacred will save us.”

- **Thomas Berry**

“We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.”

- **Wendell Berry**

Young Chief, a Cayuse, on refusing to sign the Treaty of Walla Walla because he felt the rest of creation was not represented in the transaction

“I wonder if the ground has anything to say? I wonder if the ground is listening to what is said? I wonder if the ground would come alive and what is on it? Though I hear what the ground says: the ground says, ‘It is the Great Spirit that placed me here. The Great Spirit tells me to take care of the Indians, to feed them aright. The Great Spirit appointed the roots to feed the Indians on.’ The water says the same thing. The Great Spirit directs me: ‘Feed the Indians well.’ The grass says the same thing, ‘Feed the Indians well.’ The ground, water and grass say, ‘The Great

Spirit has given us our names. We have these names and hold these names.’ The ground says, ‘The Great Spirit placed me here to produce all that grows on me, trees and fruit.’ The same way the ground says, ‘It was from me humans were made.’ The Great Spirit, in placing people on earth, desired them to take good care of the ground and to do each other no harm.”

- **From “God is Red” by Vine Deloria, Jr.**