



Eucalyptus rubida

Newsletter of The Centre for Ecology & Spirituality,
183 Burns Rd. Glenburn, Victoria, Australia. 3717
Ph: 03 5797 8532 Email: centrecology@bigpond.com
www.edmundrice.org.au/glenburn

Newsletter No.35

Summer 2008-2009

Wonderland type toadstools adorn the forest in early winter. A beautiful green moss sets them off against the trunk of the eucalyptus.

You are a Dimension of the Universe!

We are all dimensions of the Universe. A flower and a galaxy are both expressions of the Universe and both of them narrate the beautiful story of a sublime incarnation of Spirit. Every animal, plant and molecule is a dimension of the Universe. Many of these little life-forms have got together to produce the so-called higher forms of life, of which we are an example. Each new life-form is consequent on, and connected to what has gone before. As philosopher and mathematician Alfred North Whitehead beautifully put it:

The whole universe conspires to form each new creation.

Each atom, molecule, organ and organism has an interiority, linked to all life, that sustains it in its participation in life. Our heart does not depend on our conscious brain to know what it has to do to support the complexity that constitutes our life, and pump blood through our arteries. Similarly, our kidneys know what needs to be done to purify our blood.

A cooperation beyond our consciousness links every cell in our bodies in the task of keeping us alive. And with each breath our lungs supply the fuel sent us by the sun to keep the show on the road. Our immune system is constantly at work assessing the chemical and biological checks and balances that miraculously keep us alive (mostly) for many years. And to what purpose?

Gerard Manly Hopkins has asked the question:

What is all this juice and all this joy?

His answer was:

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning, In Eden garden.....

When it comes to articulating the arrival of Jesus in cosmological terms, a certain delicacy is required. In as much as we are describing the humanity of Jesus of Nazareth, the beauty and creativity of this humanity has the same earthly origins as the rest of us. The evolutionary view attributes the same basic life-force present in humans, as that which was present in, for example, the galaxy from which we came, or the supernova that produced the heavy elements that are essential for life.

This is much the same thinking that Teilhard de Chardin was criticised for, but that was a time when it was not rare for even

informed Christians to resist the implications of evolution. This still persists, but is thankfully rare.

Jesus' humanity has the same sacred origins as our own, and this humanity is linked to all that exists in ways not materially different to our own humanity. 'To be human is to be connected' was the title of an earlier Rubida editorial.

The cosmological view can complement



the traditional theological view without problem, I think. What relates the phenomenon of Jesus more closely to the human phenomenon as we have now come to know it is all the more beautiful.

The New Story demands of us
A more Sublime Mystery
Than can be had by re-employing
The deity of the Old Story
With a new role description
Instead, Person, Trinity, morphs into Allurement
As the Sun rises East out of blackness;
Rather as Earth carries us into Deeper Love;
As its daily heart-beat echoes our own,

Rolling in the lure of our Mother Star;
Feeding us at her breast each morning;
Our bodies warmed by her rays;
Each of us a true tabernacle of Christhood.
Come, taste, Body of God, Body of Christ,
My Body, Our Body, Earth Body;
Wordless, chirping, bouncing, dancing,
Awesome Wonder. T Parton

To be a member of the Earth Community is to be in contact with a one time event that is still working itself out in every life-form that inhabits the Earth and the realms beyond the Earth. We are still part of the great flaring forth that took place 13.7 billion years ago, and everything has emerged from that event that is still taking place over time.

In the cosmological view nothing has been added to this great and beautiful celebration of diverse and wonderful forms. In this view the Nativity of Jesus takes its unique place alongside our own humble but amazing evolution.

In this thinking, the Christ event in which we are invited to participate, leads us into the next stage the Universe seems to yearn for in its hidden wisdom, namely to take the Earth Community into the future with comprehensive compassion, a healing egalitarianism and a will to become one community of life.

In this thinking, this is the kind of salvation that humanity needs: a wisdom to match our huge capacity to mould the Earth in a way that takes it forward, not backward.

A primitive view of *Eden garden* and its events, needs to grow into an awareness of what the new garden and its community of life need to keep the garden flowering.

Trevor Parton

Other Reading:

Alfred North Whitehead, *Science and Religion*

Gerard Manly Hopkins, *Spring*

See the website for earlier Rubida essays and articles.