



# Creation Walk

**Brian Grogan SJ**, author of *Finding God in a Leaf*, has a new book out! *Creation Walk* is an exploration of the thirty steps of the creation of the world as we know it. Included below are the first two steps in the journey of Creation

## Step 1: 13,800,000,000 Years Ago, The Birth of the Cosmos

In 1650 Archbishop Ussher of Armagh pronounced that God began the week-long work of Creation at 6 pm on the evening of Saturday 22 October, 4004 BC. With the scientific data now to hand we know that our universe in fact flared into existence some 13.8 billion years ago: we call that moment the Big Bang. Time, space and energy began to exist. All that would ever come to be has developed from the processes of hydrogen and helium formation that began then and still continue. The universe expanded and cooled rapidly. Energy condensed into matter.

As the author of *Once Upon a Universe* puts it: 'We now know that the sacred community of the universe is a single interconnected web of life emanating from the creative energy of God. Before the beginning there was silence. No time, no space ... nothing ... only Spirit. Suddenly everything burst forth from a single point . . . All the matter that exists now was present then in embryonic form. Every particle in the universe is at source connected to all others.'

Nancy Sylvester continues: 'We humans have emerged from stardust. We were nourished in the oceans but risked coming onto land. There we stood tall, breathed in air, and learnt to till the soil for food . . . Now as an Earth community we explore Creation from its tiniest to its cosmic manifestations to learn how to live with the reverence our ancestors had for our Common Home.'

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'. (Gen 1:1)

'Wow! What happened next?'

## Step 2: 12,800,000,000 Years Ago, Galaxies

Across the Universe, stars just like our sun and made of hydrogen and helium, began to cluster together in their billions, forming what we call galaxies. As larger stars in their death throes exploded – supernovas – they created in their wombs the heavier elements such as carbon, calcium, iron. These provided the fundamental suite of constituents for life as we know it to emerge.

The universe is permeated with an extraordinary power of creativity. On one end of the spectrum is the whale, on the other the fairy-fly, the smallest



insect ever observed. This little being has an average body length of just 0.139mm, almost as thin as a strand of hair. Yet its body consists of 1,690,000,000,000 atoms.

### Galaxies

Although we used to think that our Earth had a privileged place at the centre of the Universe, we now know that our solar system is only one among a vast number of others. Planet Earth is an infinitesimal speck in the corner of our galaxy, which is a vast cloud of one hundred billion stars. And there are more shocks: the nebulae (nebula = cloud), which we can see between the stars are in fact clouds of galaxies, each one containing a hundred billion suns similar to ours. The majority of these suns are orbited by planets. So there

are in the universe thousands of billions of billions of billions of planets such as Earth.

We are invited to pay amazed attention both to the size of the universe and to God who looks after our Common Home so carefully. We are being drawn forward by the Author of all Cosmic Mystery who is manifested in created things and who leaves a divine signature on all that exists.

‘The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of God’s hands’. (Ps 19:1)

‘Wow! What happened next?’❤️

Creation Walk: The Amazing Story of A Small Blue Planet, by Brian Grogan SJ, Messenger Publications 2020, €9.95. from [www.messenger.ie/](http://www.messenger.ie/) bookshop and all booksellers.