

# COSMIC WALK

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## Life moves on to land

460 million years ago

This seat invites you to sit, rest awhile and reflect.

*"The Earth was once molten rock, now it sings operas."*

Brian Swimme

*"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





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## Mammals emerge

216 million years ago



The maternal instinct is expressed through bonding, attachment and nurturing. The Monterey Cypress tree-trunk with its dent, symbolises the maternal womb and all its bonding and nurturing qualities. It is wonderful to observe the familial bond between the parent and the young of all mammals.

*“The animals of the planet are in desperate peril. Without free animal life, I believe we will lose the spiritual equivalent of oxygen.”*

Alice Walker



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## Birds fly

150 million years ago

they follow the insects into the vast vault of the sky.

115 million years ago **Flowers grow.**

*“A bird does not sing because he has an answer,  
He sings because he has a song.”*

Joan Walsh





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## Humans arrive

2.5 million years ago

Scientists are still exploring the genesis of the human. They have identified that the earliest humans lived two and a half million years ago. Earth has evolved to new self-awareness.

The archway symbolises the doorway into the realisation that

*“the universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.”*

Thomas Berry





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## 11 Three mounds

Three mounds symbolise the fundamental principle of all life which is birth, death and new life. Out of the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples great civilizations and religions emerge 6,000 years ago. Varied religious perspectives lead to Confucianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam.

### **Confucianism**

*"He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions."*

Confucius

### **Judaism**

*God said... "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."*

Exodus 3:5

### **Christianity**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."*

John 1:1

### **Buddhism**

*"Be where you are otherwise you will miss your life."*

Buddha

### **Islam**

*"My mercy embraces all things."*

Quran 7; 156

### **Hinduism**

*"The Hindu Religion is the only one of the world's great faiths dedicated to the idea that the cosmos itself undergoes an immense, indeed an infinite, number of deaths and rebirths."*

Carl Sagan



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*“We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploration will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.”*

T.S. Eliot

*“From 13.8 billion years ago to today is one unbroken event.”*

Brian Swimme





## Ecozoic Era - A Prayer of Healing

We join with the earth and with each other.  
To bring new life to the land  
To restore the waters  
To refresh the air

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To renew the forests  
To care for the plants  
To protect the creatures

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To celebrate the seas  
To rejoice in the sunlight  
To sing the song of the stars

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To recreate the human community  
To promote justice and peace  
To remember our children

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

We join together as many and diverse expressions  
of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and  
the renewal of all life.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Programme