

11. CREATION

1. In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth,
through the Word.
For in the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
All things were made by the Word,
and nothing was made without him.

2. The stars were made by the Word,
the earth was made by the Word,
the birds were made by the Word,
the trees were made by the Word;
the seashells and sand,
the oceans and puddles,
the ants and behemoths,
the wind and clouds,
and you.

3. And God, with the Word,
sat back and rested,
and looked at all they had made,
and they called it "good."

4. God's love for creation
and for you
could not be contained.
It swirled around within the Trinity,
and then poured forth into creation.
God's love is evident
in all the things that have been made.
God's love is unconditional
and has always been that way.

5. You cannot exist
without nature;
nature is not complete
without you.
There is an abundance for all
in nature's gifts,
if they are used properly.
We accept these gifts
as we need,
not as we want,
and we share so that all people
have their needs met.
And we work to replenish the gifts
we have been given.
For we own nothing of it,
but we are caretakers of it all.

A Common Rule for Monastics

6. If you lose your connection with nature,
you lose your connection with God.
We are called to be co-creators with God,
to express our love
in many and diverse forms.
So, create good
create art
create love.
Receive gratefully
and give back joyfully.

7. The pattern of God
is found in all things.
To know all things
we must first learn to deeply know
the thing before us,
the person before us,
or the creature before us,
in the present moment,
right now.
To say we love humanity,
we must be able to love the person
in front of us.
Love is more important than intellect,
understanding, or knowledge.

“Christianity is not about avoiding punishment or gaining reward. It is about loving God and loving what God loves. And what God loves is the whole of creation.” —Marcus Borg