

No creation stories survive intact from Wicca's source cultures (British, Anglo-Saxon, and Celtic), so the ones we have are modern. Here's a Wiccan creation story by Ashleen O'Gaea. She wrote it many years ago for the Tucson Area Wiccan-Pagan Network's Moon School, and now Mother Earth Ministries uses it too.

HOW THE EARTH AND ALL THAT LIVES UPON IT CAME TO BE

A very long time ago, in the time before time, the Goddess, who is everything and always, was so happy to BE that she found herself crying tears of joy. Her tears became the stars and planets, and the galaxies, and our own Earth and Moon. (Scientists call this "the Big Bang" because it was also a physical explosion.) But that was not the end of her happiness, and more of it overflowed, and became the Earth's land and the seas.

"Oh!" thought the Goddess, "I have grown, and now my joy is even greater!" And her delight overflowed again, and became Earth's plants and animals. Because they were part of her, she loved them very much, and called them her holy children.

Then she saw the plants and animals begin to die, and for a moment she was sad and afraid. She cried, but because she loved them, she did not turn away, and her tears of sorrow became hope and courage and trust.

And because she did not turn away, she also saw that plants and animals were reborn again and again from her hope and courage, from her love and trust. She saw that their deaths and rebirths were like a spiral, and like a dance, and she realized that this spiral dance was holy, too.

Though these plants and animals were not immortal like the Goddess, they were still part of her, and so she called them and their dance "God" – a name that was a shorter version of her own name, Goddess.

This God delighted her too. "He" is all that dies and is reborn, her child and companion. From the love of the Goddess and the God, humans were born. These new creatures were like brothers and sisters to the plants and animals that already lived on the Earth. Humans shared the God's – the plants' and animals' – mortal life cycle, but they also shared the Goddess' understanding of eternity. And the Goddess called humans her sacred children too.

We humans are a perfect combination of the God, who dies and is reborn, and the Goddess, who is everything and always. The planet and everything that lives upon it is related to us, so we must care for it all with as much love as the Goddess cares for us, and as gently.

Like the Goddess, we find that our joy grows with experience, and like the God, we learn from every death and rebirth. Just as the God gives new forms to the Goddess' delight and awareness, so all of life learns and grows with every turn of the Wheel of the Year. Scientists call this process "evolution" – and Wiccans still call it the Spiral Dance.



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