

## **The Universe Story**

The story of the Universe is the story of each of us. Each phase, each moment in this story is the Universe giving birth to us. Each moment represents the birth of our common ancestor.

Out of unimaginable light the Universe was dreamed into being. It contained all the light, energy, and potential for everything that would ever come to be, all contained within the vessel of hydrogen.

**(1) The Primordial Fireball** (13.7 Billion years ago)

**(2) Stars** (13.3 Billion years ago)

**(3) Galaxies** (12.7 Billion years ago)

**(4) Expansion** (7 Billion years ago) Dark energy overpowers the gravitational pull of Dark Matter and the expansion of the Universe accelerates.

**(5) Supernova** (4.6 billion years ago) Our mother star, in the Orion arm of the Milky Way galaxy, having consumed and sacrificed herself, collapsed. In the intense energy of that collapse, she was transformed into a supernova, exploding her stardust into space, and birthing all the new elements which would take shape as Earth's body and ours.

**(6) Sun** (4.5 billion years ago) That exploding stardust began to slow down, cool, and condense into a community of planets around the mother star, our Sun.

**(7) Earth** (4.1 billion years ago) Our planet slowly cooled and gradually formed an atmosphere, oceans, and land mass.

**(8) Life** (4 billion years ago) Gradually, within the oceans, more complex arrangements began to take shape. These were the first simple cells, and through them, Earth awakened into life.

**(9) Photosynthesis** (3.9 billion years ago) Earth learned to take nourishment from the Sun. Through these simple-celled microbes, she learned to eat sunlight, to nurse from the Sun. And that dynamic laid the pattern for all future life forms, that each must receive nourishment from another, and give itself in return to become nourishment for another.

**(10) Sexual reproduction** (1 billion years ago) Life was mysteriously drawn toward union, and the first simple-celled organisms began to reproduce sexually. Different strands of genetic memory were combined in the new offspring. This opened up infinite new possibilities. Around the same time, organisms began to feed on other organisms, and that relationship formed the basis of the community in which each would develop.

**(11) Birds** (150 million years ago) the first birds took flight, and in and through them Earth broke into melody and song.

**(12) Flowers** (120 million years ago) The first flowering plants emerged, concentrating their life energy and memory into seed, making protein in the form of seed available for the mammals who were yet to come, and, in their flowering, bringing color and fragrance to Earth.

**(13) Mammals** (114 million years ago) The first placental mammals developed, warm-blooded creatures who, like the supernova, carry their unborn young within their own bodies, and who nourish them from their own substance both before and after their birth.

**(14) Earliest Humanoids** (2.6 million years ago) The earliest humanoid types evolved from the primate mammals in Africa. Creatures with brains and nervous systems complex enough that in and through them Earth awakened into self-conscious awareness of her existence.

**(15) “Eve”** (70,000 years ago) Our common ancestor, our great grandmother, “mitochondrial Eve” lived in Africa. There were only two thousand human beings at this time. Soon after, some of these humans began to leave Africa to populate the rest of the Earth.

Today, in this moment of grace, all humans can finally understand their common origin story, embracing and celebrating their different stories within a single Earth community in a single sacred Universe. Like the *Uroboros*, the beginning of the Universe is like the end: each of us, right now, carries with us the memories of this story. Within us, we have the capacity to give birth to a new world.