

DAILY BREAD

“Grain of Hope : Slice of Heaven”

“To create one Grass-blade...”

To Create one Grass-blade

Thomas Traherne, that wonder-fuelled explorer
Of the whole universe, chose to concentrate

On a single Fly, showing it as a “Treasure
Wherein all Wonders were shut up together”;

Showing how, if nothing else had been made,
That Fly might be seen as the Centre

And End of creation. Centuries later,
I reach for this Blackberry, seed-encrusted,

Tasting darkly wild, or perhaps I dig
For a buried Earthworm; - anything at all

But the human species. All at once I alight
On a blade of Grass,

as so in time
Did the Cosmos itself, but could do this only

After the heat-forged Energy that exploded
Out of the Source had created Time itself

In unnamed units marked by the cooling
Of its gas-chaos; after it had made

Space through outward-whirling trajectories
Littered with Stars, in a primal Act of Making

That was also a Finding. We might compare
This Energy with the dove sent by Noah

In **Genesis**, which to find a wisp of green
Travelled through churning chaos, over a world

That was totally unmade. In its own journey
This creating Force that searched as it travelled,

Moved through and into Stars of sheer rock,
Seeing that each was good, through Planets made

Of gas or swirling fluids; it passed on
Through Atmospheres that would suffocate Earth-
breath;

Then after long tracts of cold Space
It found through its own act of Conception

A planet forged from fragments of the Stars
It had made and dispersed: it found a planet

Submerged in water. In Time that Sea
Shrinks away from the rock-surface, dries

In the daily blink of Sun until the silt
Is close enough to Soil to support the struggle

Towards the Light

of one blade of Grass

Strange to think that this frail inch of Green
Holds prairies of Wheat, huge stores of Grain

Balanced on its seed-tip. Strange to see
Hanging above it like a speech-bubble

a future world
of cave-fires industrial ovens
of Big Macs pastry-confections bread
torn shared devoured with conversation
fierce arguments laughter twirled pasta yeast
unleavened dough pounded bread rising heat
sandwiches gulped at an office desk chapatis
takeaway pizza naan canapes at receptions
the smell of baking the warmth of home
thrumming cafes discreet restaurants
busy kitchens families whose day
always begins with cereals
starts with toast

a dream-balloon

a world with a shadow-self of hunger
wilfully untethered from its nature-base

floating

above this shoot on a human-less ball of rock
surrounded

by inhospitable Planets

yawning Space

But the transforming Force which made this Plant
in an Act of Longing had yet more to do:

Just as the Dove returned a sprig of Green
Back to its Sender, so that Energy-stream

Worked within the Grass-plant, made it Food
And Home to many life-forms:

it became

Host to the Source

from which its Being flowed

offered in prayer as Eucharistic Bread.

Diane Pacitti, 2020

It takes everything to make anything

Time

It takes time, sequential, evolutionary, **Chronos** time - around 14 billion earth years of it to date – for a universe to unfold, one thing leading to another thing. From a Taoist perspective, this leads to 10,000 things or beings, where the 10,000 stands in for everything that is. Deep, sequential, cumulative time.

It also takes **Kairos** time, described as the right or appointed time; or the spontaneous, radically particular time. For Paul Tillich it is the existential moment of decision; for scientists it is change or difference, signified by the mathematical symbol Delta (below).



“Not all moments are created equal, some are ‘spacious moments’, shot through with eternity”¹

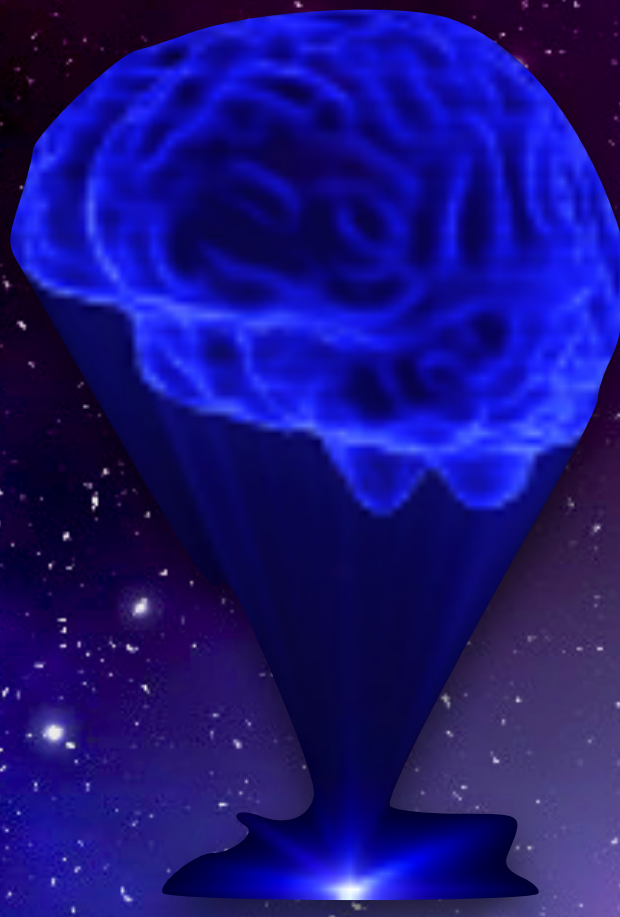
In an evolving universe there are countless Kairos moments which enable the 10,000 things to proliferate. A moment when conditions are just right for primordial hydrogen to coalesce into helium so the universe becomes various rather than remaining a sea of hydrogen for all *Chronos* time. Another moment when formation of micelles in an ancient ocean creates a protected space which allows self-replicating molecules to become... Life.

Stuff

Enmeshed with time is stuff – space, matter, energy, dimensions. Stuff is time made visible. Stuff is the culmination and container of its own history. Stuff gives us wings – and feet, roots, flippers. And it gives us perspective.

Perspective

We are inheritors of both the **Great Chain of Being** and ‘a world in a grain of sand’ (see 26 and 9 in this series for more). Calling these perspectives ‘scientific’ and ‘religious’ limits both. A multitude of perspectives ‘enlarges and reveals the range of truths’². Our understandings of chance and how we ascribe meaning become Kairos moments in themselves. **Holograms**³ help here. Through the interaction of energy from the world (light), high-resolution transformers (our eyes) and powerful makers-of-meaning-from-perspective (our brains) we make truth.



Hologram Image of human brain

And so we find ourselves in a Goldilocks universe which is ‘just right’ for us because it is us. We belong. But with limited perspectives and imperfect knowledge we tinker at our peril. We stand at a Kairos moment like no other for our species and myriad others. We know it. Whichever way we jump, it will involve all of us, human and other than human.

**“We are all inheritors and hosts
of the source. We can all find our
part in everything, starting
anywhere.”**

1.Lucy Winkett, sermon

2.Chris Clarke (ed), ‘Ways of Knowing’

3.Hologram image www.vidoblocks.com