



Genesis, humankind and the Earth

On the seventh day, while God rested, man learned that he was created in the image of God and had responsibility for managing all that God had made. Humankind, he and she, sat down to explore the potential of these riches. They tilled the soil and reaped a harvest as never before; they domesticated animals to work for them and to feed them; they fashioned tools to aid their labours; they learned the value of plants and minerals to heal and to cure; they fished the waters; clothed and warmed their bodies and were satisfied; they loved each other; they multiplied and peopled the earth.

Humankind devised more sophisticated ways of feeding himself and called it "agriculture", people learned to work tools and devise ways of making things and called it "industry". People cooperated together, cared for the weak, nurtured and protected children, appointed their own leaders and called it "democracy". People enjoyed their ability to create and to share and called it "the Arts". People learnt to explore and understand their world, to develop more things for their use and well-being and called it "Science".

Humankind had learned the root of Love. God, humankind and the Earth were one.

On the eighth day, humankind, he and she and all the rest having all their needs satisfied, found that that was not enough. Some coveted what others had and stole from them. Others fought their neighbours in their greed to have more. Yet others found that resting on the seventh day was not enough. They became lazy and slothful, some abused their animals, others overate and drank too much and became ill. Sickness was born. Good things that had been discovered or made by Man could now become tools to attack others and to harm their neighbours. War was born. Exploitation ruled conservation.

Humankind despoiled the earth to get more and more while giving back less and less. Man ceased to share in God's creation and was now man the destroyer. God looked on.

Humankind had learnt the roots of evil. Was this God's plan or was God helpless? What next to save Humankind? [n](#)

Elizabeth Harbottle, Heighington, County Durham.