

The beginning: a perfect home

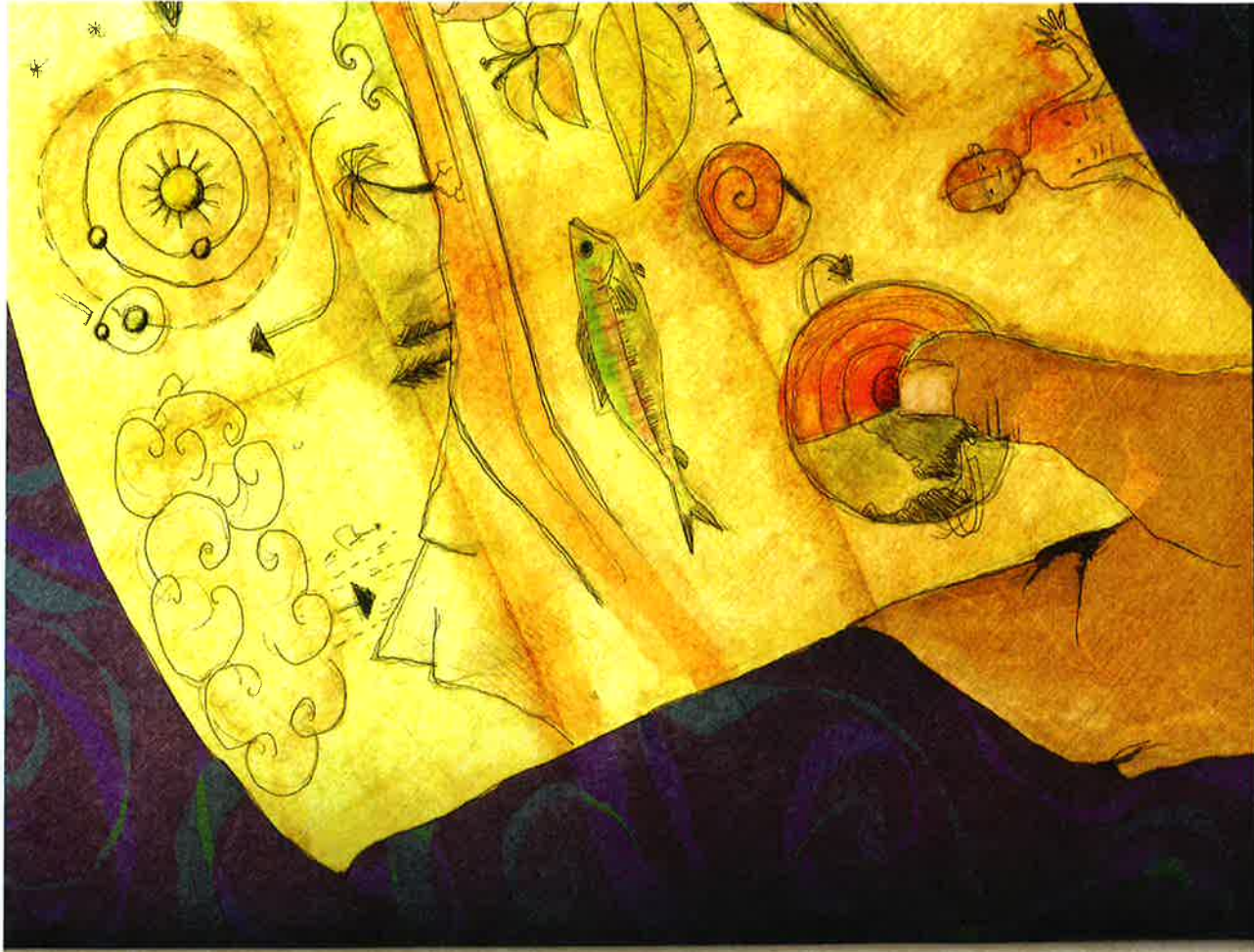
The Song of Creation, from Genesis 1-2

IN THE BEGINNING, there was nothing. Nothing to hear. Nothing to feel. Nothing to see. Only emptiness. And darkness. And . . . nothing but nothing.

But God was there. And God had a wonderful Plan. "I'll take this emptiness," God said, "and I'll fill it up! Out of the darkness, I'm going to make light! And out of the nothing, I'm going to make . . . EVERYTHING!"

Like a mommy bird flutters her wings over her eggs to help her babies hatch, God hovered over the deep, silent darkness. He was making life happen.

God spoke. That's all. And whatever he said, it happened.



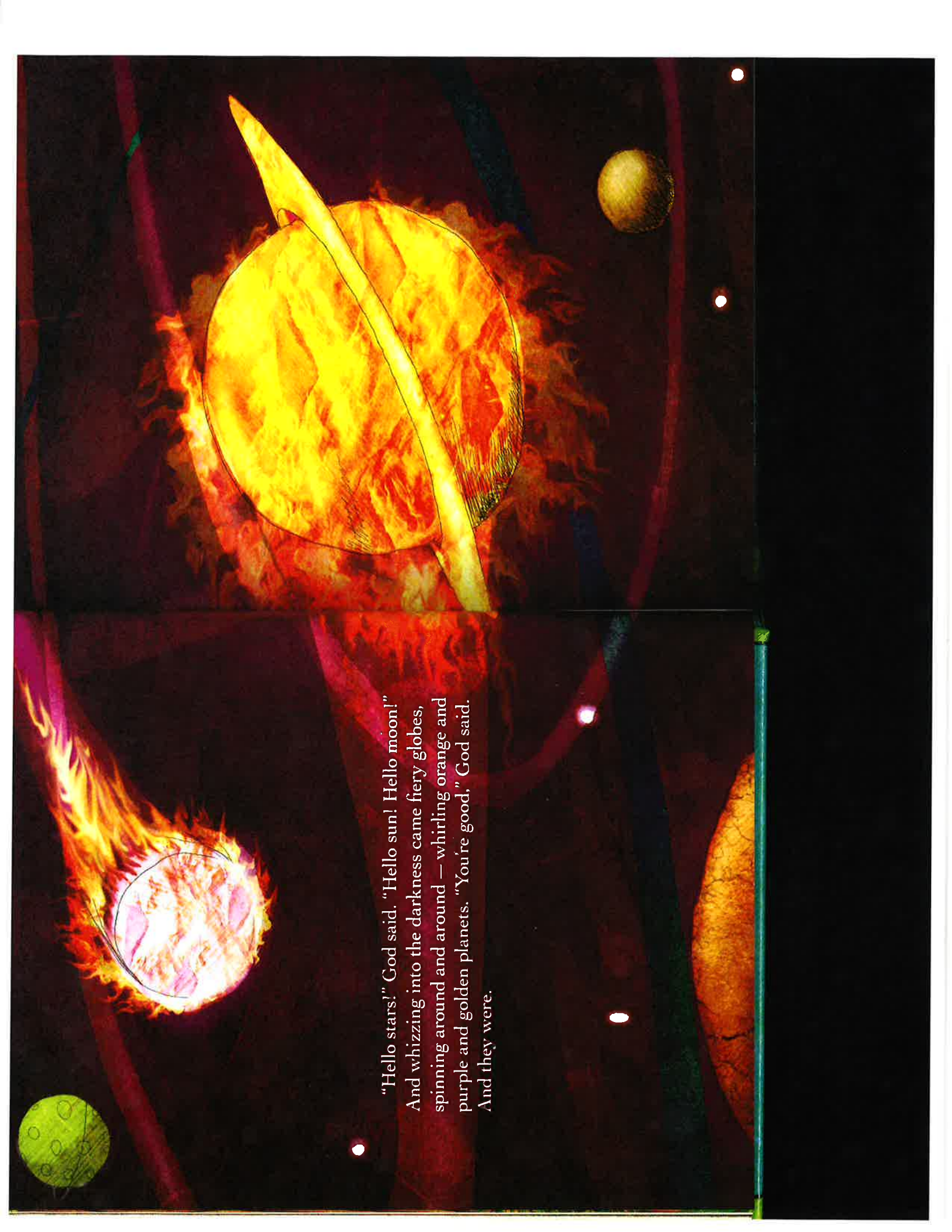


God said, "Hello light!" and light
shone into the darkness. God called the
light, "Day" and the darkness, "Night."

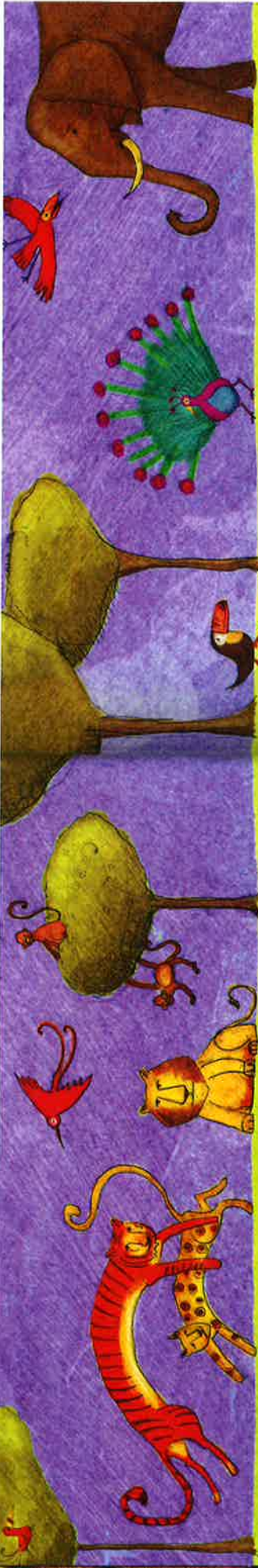
"You're good," God said. And they were.
Then God said, "Hello sea! Hello sky!" and a great
space opened up, wide and deep and high. "You're
good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello land!" and there — splashing
up through the oceans — came cliffs, mountains, sandy
beaches. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello trees!" God said. "Hello grass and flowers!"
And everything everywhere burst into life. He made
buds bud; shoots shoot; flowers flower. "You're good,"
God said. And they were.



“Hello stars!” God said. “Hello sun! Hello moon!”
And whizzing into the darkness came fiery globes,
spinning around and around — whirling orange and
purple and golden planets. “You’re good,” God said.
And they were.



"Hello birds!" God said. And with a fluttering and flapping and chirping and singing, birds filled the skies. "Hello fish!" God said. And with a darting and dashing and wriggling and splashing, fish filled the seas! "You're good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello animals!" And everyone came out to play. The earth was filled with noisy noises — growling and gobbling and snapping and snorting and happy skerfuffling. "You're good," God said. And they were.

God saw all that he had made and he loved them. And they were lovely because he loved them.

But God saved the best for last. From the beginning, God had a shining dream in his heart. He would make people to share his Forever Happiness. They would be his children, and the world would be their perfect home.



So God breathed life
into Adam and Eve.

When they opened
their eyes, the first
thing they ever saw was God's face.

And when God saw them he was like a new dad.
"You look like me," he said. "You're the most beautiful
thing I've ever made!"

God loved them with all of his heart. And they were
lovely because he loved them.

And Adam and Eve joined in the song of the stars
and the streams and the wind in the trees, the
wonderful song of love to the one who made them.
Their hearts were filled with happiness. And nothing
ever made them sad or lonely or sick or afraid.

God looked at everything he had made. "Perfect!"
he said. And it was.

But all the stars and the mountains and oceans and
galaxies and everything were nothing compared to how
much God loved his children. He would move heaven
and earth to be near them. Always. Whatever happened,
whatever it cost him, he would always love them.

And so it was that the wonderful
love story began...

