

CORE 100 (4): ES

Creation/Wonder

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Humans: are we mostly good or mostly bad?

Use one sticker to show your answer.

Scripture of Day: Genesis 1:27-28

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, “Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Scripture of Day: Colossians 1:15-17

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Reformed Christian Theological Concepts

Common Grace
Image of God

Robin Wall Kimmerer (contemporary)

Writer (essays, memoir); Botanist



Image: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/23/all>

Aminah Al-Attas Bradford (contemporary)

Ecologist, scholar of Christian thought



Symbiotic Stewardship

Al-Attas Bradford

1. Are you surprised by the deep integration of humans and microbes?
How easily (or not easily) does this idea sit with you? For example, what is your reaction to the term *holobiont*?
2. Where do humans fit in to creation, and what does it mean to be created "in the image of God," according to Al-Attas Bradford? What unconventional insights does she add, and do they resonate with you?
3. ??? (*Your questions*)

A Third Story

[“People of Corn, People of Light”](#) in Braiding Sweetgrass, p. 341

Creation Stories

Questions

Where do I come from?

Why am I here?

Who am I?

https://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/publications/articles/yl_220425.pdf

Tasks

Giving meaning to existence

Define moral codes, band societies together

Themes & Motifs in Creation Stories

- Animals with human qualities
- Natural elements (sky, earth, water, sun) with human qualities
- Creation out of nothing, chaos, darkness, or water
- Creation of people out of mud or clay
- Separations: humans and animals, mother and father gods, rival gods
- Cycles of creation and destruction
- Connections to the sacred or home places of the culture

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Table 1. Elements of Aboriginal Stories of Origin

<i>Culture/Location</i>	<i>Title of Main Deity</i>	<i>Beginning of Earth</i>	<i>Creation of Humans</i>	<i>Cultural/Geographic Connections</i>
Yoruba of Nigeria	Olorun	Life in the sky, water and marsh beneath	A divine agent made humans from earth, but Olorun breathed in life	Tropical forest good for farming fruits and vegetables; annual festival honors god of thunder
Australia	Sun Mother	Sun, asleep in sky, awakes	Children of the moon and morning star	Land, much of it desert, is the core of spirituality
Banks Islands, Melanesia	Quat the Creator	Bright light and no darkness before creation	Quat forms wooden puppets from tree	A variety of spirits inhabit forests, mountains, and swamps on the islands
Blackfoot, Native American	Old Man the Creator (Naapi)	Always existed; he created as he traveled	Diety forms a mother and child from clay	Nomadic/buffalo hunting on the savanna
China	Phan-Ku	Universe in the shape of and egg	Goddess Nuwa makes humans from mud	Dragon is controller of all water; much agriculture depends on rivers
Egypt	Ra (Re) the Creator	Only churning water, then sun god Ra emerged	Tears from Ra's second eye	Nile River is the source of agriculture and life
Iceland	Odin, Vili, and Ve	Empty space between two realms: fire and light; snow and ice	Man from ash tree and woman from elm (Odin breathed life, Vili gave them wit and feelings, Ve brought hearing and sight)	Island is of volcanic origin; much of it covered by glaciers
Maori of New Zealand	Rangi (sky) Papi (Earth)	Sky lay upon the earth, darkness	From clay	Separation of mother and father causes storms and winds; an island people
Quiche' Maya of Guatemala	Two creators: Maker (Huracan) and Feathered Serpent (Gugumatz)	Darkness and the sea	Mud, wood, and finally corn	Maize (corn) cornerstone of the Maya diet; annual hurricane (from "Huracan") season

Source	Name of main deity	Beginning of Earth	Creation of Humans	Geographic/Cultural Connections
Genesis				
Skywoman falling (peoples native to Great Lakes region of US)				
People of Corn, People of Light (Mayan people of Central America)				
Science (after Kimmerer's view in "People of Corn...")				

**Humans are the crown of
creation
(elders/caretakers), or
amidst it, or the lower part
(younger/learners)?**

Questions: Genesis, Skywoman + People of Corn

- What does a story different from your own draw your attention to or make you notice?
- What can we learn from examining commonalities and differences?
- **Especially: How do different stories change the way we relate to other living things and inhabit our place on the earth?**

Tying it Together

- What do today's readings teach us about humans being created *in the Image of God*?
- How do they link to each other?
- How do they motivate us in relation to environmental sustainability?

The story of our relationship to the earth is written more truthfully on the land than on the page. It lasts there. The land remembers what we said and what we did. Stories are among our most potent tools for restoring the land as well as our relationship to the land. We need to understand the old stories that live in a place and begin to create new ones, for we are storymakers, not just storytellers.

“People of Corn, People of Light” in Braiding Sweetgrass, p. 341