



The Evolving Story of Now

Now was born nearly fourteen billion years ago. Her mother was the Cosmos; the formless infinite and eternal wholeness, where neither time nor space, nor energy nor matter existed. There was just the emptiness of immeasurable potential. Then, as a great thought, the Cosmos chose to birth **Now** as a Uni-verse, to breathe into being the possibility of singing a song of life.

Lovingly she sang **Now's** Uni-verse into form. Its in-formed appearance of space and time, energy and matter emerged from its fundamental nature of cosmic information. Holographically manifested it would contain all of **Now** in every point of expanding space and every moment of the flow of time.

Now was created by the Cosmos not only to exist but to evolve.

For **Now's** first four hundred millennia, the primordial echoes of her song attuned the notes of the first stars and galaxies, shepherding them into existence.

Then through long billions of years **Now** continued to learn; exploring, experiencing and always evolving. Within the emerging life of her ongoing song, countless stars were born. They burned brightly and died until, after nearly nine billion years, **Now** arrived at a great threshold. Their heritage had bequeathed enormous interstellar dust clouds embodying a wealth of elemental resources, water and even complex molecules; harbingers of biological life. From their nurseries **Now** began to sing a tender cradle-song for her planetary children.

One of these planets was called Gaia. Circling grandfather Sun and watched over by grandmother Moon, she is protected by her elder brothers Jupiter and Saturn. Blessed by being neither too hot nor too cold she became a blue planet abundantly nurtured by water.

In Gaia's primeval oceans **Now** midwived the DNA template for the emergence of all of Gaia's biological children. From archaic bacteria evolving to oxygen releasing algae, **Now** began her terra-forming quest for Gaia to become an oxygen rich home. Guided by **Now's** evolutionary impulse, waves of ever-more complex creatures thrived in Gaia's oceans, until 550 million years ago, when her atmosphere, now rich in oxygen, empowered plants to inhabit the land. Their abundance soon welcomed animals to join them and **Now's** love nourished Gaia and all her growing children into inter-dependent ecosystems of co-creative evolution.

Now's yearning to learn and grow continued unabated with human beings eventually emerging.

Each human being is a community of more than 60 trillion cells made up of the energy and matter from the birth of **Now** herself 13.8 billion years ago. We embody within us ancient stardust and all those who have gone before us – primordial bacteria to the earliest creatures who walked on land, the dinosaurs that succeeded them and the tiny shrew like ancestor of all mammals to our hominid forbears – and now to us.

Unlike all of Gaia's other children, we are able to discern our ancient lineage and reflect upon ourselves. We are the stuff of our Universe reflecting upon itself. Yet gradually, as we learned to speak and to write, instead of remembering that we are part of the universal web of life, we began to see ourselves as being separate from the rest of the Universe of which we are made. As we grew in number and lived in human-made environments, our perception of separation from Gaia and her other children also increased and we began to have devastating effects on our planetary home.

Unless we overcome this false perception of separation and re-experience ourselves as part of Gaia and part of the Universe, **Now's** evolution may continue without us. As we begin, though, to re-member who we really are, we can begin to tell stories, like this one, that share our true and loving relationship with **Now** and her Uni-verse. We can let go of the mythic illusion of separation which has brought desolation to ourselves and Gaia. We can restore and re-story our relationship with her and we

can take our place and live and serve the promised destiny of our conscious evolution alongside **Now** at the unfolding edge of the Universe.