

## ***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 5**

### **THE PRECIOUS BOOK OF CREATION**

Perhaps we used to think that spirit and matter were opposed to one another, but *Laudato Si'* stresses that the Spirit is active in all matter in order to bring it home to God. Matter is spirit-endowed; it has vast potentiality; it is 'on the move'. The theory of evolution is now accepted by the Church, with the added religious dimension that it originates in the Spirit, who has been playing in creation over some fourteen billion years, kneading and moulding it like clay, creating the most beautiful and extraordinary diversity of species. Each of these carries the stamp of life, which is the mark of the enlivening Spirit.

The Pope says:

**'God has written a precious book, whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe. No creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: from panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine' (85).**

We can learn to read God's 'precious book'. In every detail of nature, God is trying to convey something to us. God wants us never to lose the sense of wonder we had in childhood. *'Children's faces looking up, holding wonder like a cup'*. This is to be our adult attitude too. Jesus refers to it when he says: *'Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven'* (Matthew 18:3). In a true sense the 'kingdom of heaven' is not only what we will enjoy beyond death: it is already given us in creation; it is all around, to be enjoyed, respected, admired. That is the child-mind at work, and we can pray to have it ourselves. Admire a plant, a bird, or a bee, and ask God, 'What are you communicating to me here?' Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, whose insights lie behind *Laudato Si'*, could playfully speak of a cloud in the sky as *'the calligraphy of God'*. Try this, but not while driving!