

Life is strange: there are so many questions—two of the very basic ones being about how life once started and gender. What's confusing are not the questions themselves—it's all their varied answers. But life didn't emerge out of chaos, and gender was there from the beginning, without any questions ever being asked. And if we should ask, the only answer ever needed is:

*We all are children of the universe.*

## ☯ Children of the Universe ☯

by *Li Sam*

From the very beginning there were earth, water and heaven. At that point our planet Earth didn't exist. It was just there as a mass, floating around in space without meaning or the notice of anyone. When the first beams of sunlight found their way to its surface, Earth emerged as a newborn child. She turned and danced around the sun, showing herself from all angles. The sunlight made her feel warm and happy. At night she rested, and when morning slowly woke her again, she showed herself more beautiful than the day before. No one questioned her existence and no one ever questioned that she was a she.

Very soon, our mother Earth began to produce life, and her beauty increased even more. But life didn't just happen out of nothing; the sun wasn't the cause alone. All the stars far away saw with wonderment what was happening—they hadn't seen anything like this before. Stars surrounded our mother Earth as in a theatre, expectantly waiting for her next turn. And with every turn, their friendly relationship grew stronger. With the attention she was shown, she felt like sparks were lighting a fire surrounding her, and soon after love occurred. All the stars gathering around her made the sky open, letting energy flow. Even from afar her love reflected increasing and eternal beauty. The starlight brightened the night, and Earth allowed beams of light from all over to find their way to her heart. The starlight made Earth pregnant, and bonds of love emerged as signs of the Zodiac across the sky.

Our mother Earth nurtured every beam that touched her, even from the tiniest little star far away, and she made them grow. The energy she felt touched her soul and made her more beautiful than ever before. At daybreak she turned to the sun, making life aware. At night, stars tucked life in, providing comfort while sleeping. Wherever she turned, light as in a marriage gently caressed her soul, promising eternal faithfulness. And as a mother in a universal, loving relationship, Earth made life a home.

Mother Earth feeds our bodies. The sun enlightens our minds, making us see. And like a father teaching his children, stars guide both you and me. In life we sparkle as the children of the universe we are, and like stars shimmering in the sky, we will never be forgotten.