

a NEW creation



"The earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: Let there be Light, and there was Light."

These are the very first words we hear at the EASTER Vigil. They were written when the people of Israel were in exile in Babylon, perhaps the most difficult time in their whole history. They had lost everything: the land promised to Abraham, lost; the freedom experienced by Moses, lost; the temple built by Solomon, lost; the hymns and songs sung by king David, lost. When Israel looked around, she could only see an earth made of "a formless void" and a "deep darkness".

What then did Israel do? Sat down and wrote the Creation story! Yes. This 'earth' made of slavery, fears and darkness was indeed the existential experience from which to tell the story of how God can create anew. In the whole creation-story there is not a single negative verb, not a single negative word is mentioned. **All is POSITIVE, all is HOPEFUL, because God can create ANEW.** Israel decided that the first words of the Bible, the book which would tell from generation to generation of the story of God and his people, would be about the story of a NEW CREATION.

When on Easter morning the women went to the tomb, while all was still wrapped in darkness, outside of them and inside of them, they remembered the creation-story, they knew of the power of God to create anew, they saw the beginning of a NEW CREATION.

This is the Paschal experience, the Christian experience: in the middle of darkness, in front of death, when all is lost, remember: God can create a new 'earth' where ALL IS POSITIVE, ALL IS HOPEFUL, ALL IS NEW. Oh Blessed Easter morning!

ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA.

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Father Ivano