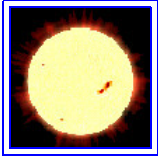


Canticle of Creation

This famous Canticle written when St Francis went into ecstasy following long spell of illness is often called *Canticle of Brother Sun* but that is misleading. It has been translated as *Canticle of the Creatures* but to our ears *creatures* implies *living creatures*. That is not what it is about. It rejoices in the creation of the Sun, Moon and Stars and of the four basic elements (as it was believed) of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. So here it is called: *Canticle of Creation*. It includes mortals and gives praise to the Lord for those who pardon and endure. It ends with the final journey with Sister Bodily Death. I have always found its grammar confusing and it is not clear who is being addressed whether God or His creation, so I have tried to put that right and made it look attractive.

Let all Creation praise the lord.



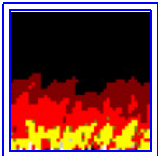
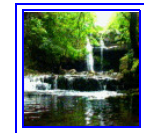
Praise Him **Brother Sun**,
who brings the dawn and gives us light
How radiant and splendid you are in likeness to the Most High.

Praise Him **Sister Moon** and the stars in the heavens
You have been made bright and precious and fair.



Praise Him **Brothers Wind and Air**
Fair or stormy and in all the weather's moods
Through you the Lord cherishes all that He has made.

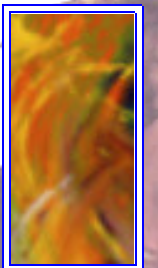
Praise Him **Sister Water**
so useful, humble, precious and pure.



Praise Him **Brother Fire**
Who brightens up the night
Like Him you are beautiful and cheerful
Full of power and strength.



Praise Him Mother Earth,
Through whom He sustains and governs us
And produces crops and fruit, colourful flowers and herbs



Praise Him all who are alive
And forgive for the love of God
Blessed are those who endure sickness or trial in peace
For by Him they will be crowned

Praise Him sister Death
From whose embrace no mortal can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those she finds doing His will!
The second death can do them no harm.



Let all Creation praise the lord and give Him thanks
And serve Him with great humility

