

**Divine Reflections**

**in Natural Phenomena**

Eva Peck

© 2013 by Eva Peck

All rights reserved

Except for any fair dealing permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this book may be reproduced by any means without prior permission of the author and publisher.

Photography: Alexander Peck with the exception of:  
Page 35 which is courtesy of <http://www.freedigitalphotos.net>  
and page 114 which is the credit of Jindrich Degen

Cover and graphic design: Eva Peck

Bible verses taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Author: Peck, Eva.

Title: Divine reflections in natural phenomena / Eva Peck;  
Alexander Peck, photography.

ISBN: 9780987090591 (pbk.)

Subjects: Nature--Religious aspects.  
Spiritual formation.  
Spiritual life.

Other Authors/Contributors: Peck, Alexander.

Dewey Number: 248.2

The book can be purchased online through  
[www.heavens-reflections.org](http://www.heavens-reflections.org) or [www.pathway-publishing.org](http://www.pathway-publishing.org)



Dedicated to the One  
in whom we live, move and have our being,  
and to those desiring, as well those who do not  
yet desire,  
to perceive the Divine in all things.

## **Other Books by the Same Author**

Divine Reflections in Times and Seasons

Divine Reflections in Living Things

Divine Insights from Human Life

Co-author of:

Pathway to Life – Through the Holy  
Scriptures

Journey to the Divine Within – Through  
Silence, Stillness and Simplicity

# **Acknowledgments**

First, I would like to thank the Great God for enabling, inspiring and blessing this publication.

I must also thank my husband, Alex, for his encouragement and support. He is always ready to help with editing and to give helpful advice. Without his valuable input, this book would not have come out as it has.

# CONTENTS

Preface.....	9
Introduction.....	12
Order, Beauty and Harmony.....	16
Chance or Design? .....	16
Laws of Conservation .....	18
Clocks and Internal Programs.....	19
Harmony and Beauty .....	20
Display of Divine Character .....	22
Disruption and Restoration .....	25
Of Creations and Creators.....	29
Contrast to Divine Creation .....	31
Other Contrasting Creations .....	32
Life's Paradoxes and Mysteries.....	35
World of Paradoxes.....	36
Possible Answers .....	37
Future Hope .....	39
Life and Death.....	41
The Marvel of Life.....	43
Humanity in the Web of Life.....	44
Ultimate Life and Death .....	46
The Source of Life .....	50
Raised to Life.....	52
Life and Death Struggle .....	54
Weather.....	58
Effects of Weather.....	59
Weather and Life Seasons.....	60
Biblical Weather Metaphors.....	61

Weather and Humanity.....	63
The Heavens and the Earth.....	66
The Heavens.....	68
The Seas.....	70
The Dry Land.....	72
Built-In Adversity .....	73
The Marvel of Water .....	76
Unique and Indispensible.....	77
Holy Spirit – the Living Water .....	80
Riverside Reflections .....	88
Rivers and Their Environs .....	89
Life as a River .....	92
Spiritual Analogies of a River .....	97
Springs in the Desert.....	99
Deserts in the Bible .....	100
Life as a Desert Experience .....	101
Spiritual Parallels.....	103
From Deserts to Oceans.....	105
Water as Type of the Holy Spirit.....	106
The Spirit – Past to Future.....	108
About the Author .....	114
More About the Author’s Other Books .....	116
Other Resources.....	118
Readers’ Comments .....	120
About Pathway Publishing.....	123





## Preface

Since early childhood, I have been captivated by the natural world. From blossoms in spring, buds opening into leaves, butterflies fluttering from one flower to the next, earthworms and caterpillars crawling on the ground, to the occasional hare or deer I would sight on family outings away from the city of Prague – all this and more fascinated me. It was why I chose to study science in high school and later at university. Even now on nature walks with my husband and father, I'm often the first to spot lorikeets in a tree hole, a wallaby in the bushes, a koala high up on a eucalyptus tree, or an unusual flower, mushroom or lizard along the path.

While nature has always spoken to me, it was only in my late teens that God opened my mind to his existence. At that time, nature took on an even deeper meaning as I could now see behind everything a Designer, Creator, Life-giver and Sustainer. Mindless, haphazard evolution no longer made sense as an answer to the order, harmony and complexity of the natural world. For a long time, I rejected the idea of evolution altogether, believing in a special divine creation as described in the Bible. However, as I have continued to read on the subject, I couldn't deny the massive amount of evidence for an evolutionary

origin of life on earth. As with many things, I have come to the conclusion that the truth must incorporate and hold in tension both alternatives – a Mind behind all things (the immanent nature of the Divine in which “we [and all that exists] live and move and have our being” – Acts 17:28), as well as natural and evolutionary processes ultimately accomplishing divine purposes.

As I became more acquainted with the message of the Bible, I began to perceive in natural phenomena a picture of spiritual realities. These insights became the genesis of this book which is the second of a trilogy. The other two are *Divine Reflections in Times and Seasons* and *Divine Reflections in Living Things* (both available through [www.pathway-publishing.org](http://www.pathway-publishing.org) and [www.heavens-reflections.org](http://www.heavens-reflections.org)).

*Divine Reflections in Natural Phenomena* and its companion titles nudge us to take a fresh look at the physical world around us – to see every process and each creature in a new way. The biblical writers, too, point us to the natural world to perceive divine glories (take a look at Psalm 19, for example). If we can pause for a moment and ponder, life and the world around us will begin to unmask such divine qualities as love, wisdom, peace, joy and power before our eyes.

While this book is based on the belief that God or a Higher Mind is behind all that exists, I do not insist on the literal interpretation of all biblical accounts, as I have come to understand that the Scriptures are not intended to be a strictly scientific or historical work. The assumption is, however, that biblical accounts reveal, sometimes in symbolic language, God's deeds in human history and also point to unseen spiritual realities. Often poetry and metaphor are the best or only vehicles to communicate what is inexpressible in literal language.

I understand that the Divine is neither male nor female. However, to use the pronoun "it" seems inappropriate, therefore I am opting for the grammatical gender "he".

For those drawn to learn more about the biblical teachings behind the observations, footnotes provide scriptural references for the conclusions reached.

Of course, other writers have also expressed the idea that the physical world pictures spiritual realities – each in their own unique way. These are my perceptions based on my experiences and understanding of how certain natural occurrences can be viewed in spiritual terms. May you too gain new insights as you take a fresh look at the seemingly ordinary aspects of your life.

Eva Peck

# Introduction

Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139:7

He is not far from each one of us.  
'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

Acts 17:27-28

The Divine is understood by religious traditions to be transcendent, immanent and personal. Various faiths may emphasise one of these aspects over the others. In the East, for example in India, religion is largely a matter of direct experience and a sense of the sacred is everywhere. In the West, by contrast, correct teachings and beliefs have often been the point of focus.

Few would question the importance of sound teachings. Nevertheless, God is far outside of our realm of perception and comprehension, and therefore human language becomes limited in accurately formulating concepts about the Divine. While groups differ in how they see the Ultimate Reality, no one can know fully in this life – we all understand partially at best.

The Bible includes both doctrinal teachings and references to direct experiences with God. They are presented from individual perspectives of the writers

and editors of the Scriptures. From the texts we can deduce that a close, experiential relationship with the Divine is possible. For example, King David is described as a man after God's own heart, Abraham and Job were friends of God, and Enoch and Noah walked with God.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, mystical writers throughout Christian history – as well as those of other religious traditions – have left us records of their unique and intimate bond with the Divine. We are all children of God, each with a special and individual relationship to our Father / Mother (since God is genderless and has both male and female qualities).

This book (the second of a trilogy) suggests that the Divine can be experienced all around us – that indeed everything is sacred and as such teaches us about and brings us closer to God. In other words, the immanent aspect of the Divine pervades all things, enabling us to catch glimpses of the transcendent reality. Increased consciousness of the Creator in the seemingly ordinary and mundane will help us appreciate divine qualities in the creation. Furthermore, it will awaken our own creative potential, since we are not only in God (as is all that exists), but

---

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 5:22-24; 6:9; 2 Chronicles 20:7; Job 29:4; Acts 13:22; James 2:23

are also made in the divine image and therefore co-workers and co-creators with God!<sup>2</sup>

For centuries, nature has been seen by many as the second book of divine revelation, next to inspired writings. Through nature we can, by grace, unexpectedly and often in surprising ways, encounter the Divine. When this happens, the literal becomes a metaphor which invites us to explore its larger and deeper meanings. By looking for the sacred in the mundane, be it dew on the grass, clouds in the sky, or new growth in the spring, we can also perceive the interconnection (“inter-being”) of all things. Everything contains all else – the sun and clouds are in the grass and buds, which couldn’t come into existence without rain and sunshine.

By our becoming open to new possibilities and interpreting experiences in fresh ways, the ordinary becomes transformed into the extraordinary, and what we had previously not even noticed becomes wonderful. When we open our hearts and become emotionally receptive, we will notice surprising presences.

Today, after reading these words, why not make a personal commitment to slow down in order to awaken to the marvels of the natural world. Sit on the

---

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 3:2

grass under a tree or on a park bench and look closely at what is around you, using the eyes and ears of both the head and heart. Become focused, giving close attention to what you see. Delight in the diversity of all things – the colours, sounds, smells, shapes and textures. In the richness of life, the creation is filled with inspiration.

Seek to be really aware, mindful and attentive to your surroundings. Open your senses, take a deep look, and truly experience things. Pay closer attention to the unusual flower or beetle, appreciate the beauty and diversity of both the living and non-living aspects of the creation. “Come and see”, as the Scriptures encourage.<sup>3</sup> Become open to the unpredictable, to adventure – allow circumstances to spontaneously unfold. Then you, too, may well echo the words of the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

---

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 46:8; 66:5; Isaiah 66:18; Matthew 28:6; John 1:46; 4:29; 11:34

## **Order, Beauty and Harmony**



Rows of apple, pear and cherry trees in white and pink blossoms under a cloudless blue sky, the orchard was in full bloom. Bees buzzed from one flower to the next gathering nectar. Sun rays reflected from a nearby pond surface and ducks basked in the warmth of the spring morning. A tabby cat explored the grassy meadow, looking for mice. Poplar trees, dressed in fresh green foliage, swayed gently in the breeze. Recent swallow arrivals returned to their old nests or were busily building new ones, and a blackbird sang heartily. The stork had returned to her old nest on the chimney top and surveyed the breathtaking scene.

### **Chance or Design?**

At some point in the distant past, the universe, including planet Earth and all that is on it, came into being. No one knows exactly when and how, but we can marvel at its complexity, diversity, order and



beauty. Ponder, for example, the adaptation of organisms to existing conditions, the complex functions taking place with infinite precision, and the delicate balance in nature (only relatively recently disrupted by human activities).

Considering the intricacy of just one cell is astounding. When one takes into account that millions of cells form the numerous organs performing hundreds if not thousands of functions in a living creature, it becomes mindboggling. Multiply this further by the number of species comprising land, sea and air creatures (including all insects and microorganisms). Add to this the interdependence of all living things and the factors affecting environment and climate, as well as the enormously vast and complex universe beyond our planet (in comparison to which the Earth is like a speck of dust).

Indeed, the natural world is awe-inspiring. Even in today's scientific and technological world, a great deal about the mystery of life is not understood. While not an absolute proof in themselves, the abovementioned phenomena in their incredible intricacy and complexity provide evidence to support the biblical account of a Being or Mind of supreme intelligence and wisdom behind all that exists.<sup>4</sup> When all is taken

---

<sup>4</sup> Job 12:7-10; Psalm 104:5-30; 148:1-12; Nehemiah 9:6; Revelation 14:7; Psalm 10:4; 14:1

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

