

## Praise to the Glorious Creatures of God

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*For my daughter Chrislynn*

Praise to those with fins and scales  
that dive to the depths of green black waters  
and witness the phosphorescent glory of the seas  
Praise to the knowing-eyed whale  
Leviathan of First Testament times

Praise to those with feathers and beaks  
all winged ones that soar through cloud strewn skies  
like our Mother eagle God who gathers her young to her side  
Praise to the choruses lifted in coos and squawks  
hymns of thanksgiving to their maker

Praise to those with translucent wings and iridescent bodies  
those that gather life on their hind legs or antennae  
and spread it from flower to flower and tree to tree  
Praise to those that move on six legs  
and spin webs that connect us to the divine

Praise to those with scales and those that slither  
toward the sunlight, whose basking on warm rocks  
stirs the blood like an encounter with the Holy  
Praise to the lizards that, with their tongues  
taste life abundantly

Praise to the four-legged creatures of the wild  
that graze in peace among the grasslands and meadows  
standing together, the young, the sleek, the old, the weak  
Praise to the predators racing with grace and speed  
chasing life as they are called

Praise to the companions that grace our hearths  
From the earliest times they pricked up their ears  
and responded to our cries for companionship  
Praise their purrs and barks; their weight in our laps  
reminds us we are not alone in this world

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