


# Light unto Light

Most people would immediately recognise Francis of Assisi as someone with a particular love for the natural world, which is why he is often portrayed as a joyous figure in the company of animals or feeding birds from his hands. The bonds of friendship and fraternity, so characteristic of his life were not confined to human persons but included 'Brother Sun', 'Sister Moon', 'Mother Earth' and all created things both animate and inanimate.

Yet this affection was more than just a superficial regard. Francis saw in 'the Book of Creation', the beauty, exuberance, power and wisdom of an eternal, personal, loving Presence — to whom it was only natural to give honour, gratitude and praise.

For Franciscans, then, the journey to God begins with our experience of the world. The search for an inner truth begins with our appreciation of the majesty and beauty of the Universe in which we find ourselves. As human persons, our five senses are the primary ways in which we understand and experience reality and, as such, they constitute the sacred doors of perception into the mystery of life.



*Since the creation of the world, invisible realities, God's eternal power and divinity have become visible, recognised through the things He has made.*

Romans 1:20