
The Goop-Ooze Story of Creation

by Catherine Lewis and Rev. Dane R. Sommer

Day 1

In the beginning there was nothing. . . . Nothing but goop-ooze. Goop-ooze was runny, slimy, globby, gloopy, yucky, yuck-stuff. There was nothing. There were no songbirds singing. There were no bees buzzing. Only the sound of goop-ooze. There was no rain to get you wet. There was no sun to make you warm. Only the feel of goop-ooze. There were no roses to sniff. There were no daisies to smell. Only the smell of goop-ooze. There were no apples to taste. There was no milk to drink. Only the taste of goop-ooze. GOOP-OOZE WAS EVERYWHERE.

God began to squeeze and mold the goop-ooze, just as you squeeze and mold play-dough.

There was goop-ooze everywhere. Everything looked like, sounded like, smelled like and tasted like goop-ooze. God was sitting in the middle of the goop-ooze and began touching it and playing with it. God began to squeeze the goop-ooze and said, "I'll bet I could create something wonderful out of this." God knew there was no way to ever get rid of all the goop-ooze. But God knew a wonderful creation was possible. God was very excited.

God knew that in order to create there would need to be light. God began to squeeze and mold the goop-ooze, just as you squeeze and mold play-dough. And God made a bright, yellow, round ball and named it the sun. And suddenly there was light. God was very pleased with the sun.

Now God was warm from the sun and very sleepy and wanted to rest. God wasn't used to all this playing and creating. So God tried to rest but couldn't because the sun was too bright. So God took another glob of goop-ooze and made a smaller ball, one that wasn't so bright, and named it the moon. God decided to play, to create, to work when there was sun and God would call this the day. And

God would rest and dream with the moon, and called this the night. God was very happy with the day and the night.

God laid down and looked up and saw only goop-ooze. There had to be something else, so God jumped up and began grabbing globs of goop-ooze. God began pushing and pulling and shoving and tugging and squeezing and molding, and then there was a big space with no goop-ooze, which God named the sky. On one side of the sky God put the sun, and on the other side, the moon. And God was very pleased with all of this.

God looked down and saw only goop-ooze. Wouldn't it be wonderful not to sleep in goop-ooze underneath the big sky? God began to tug and mold and squeeze and stomp and made the earth. The earth had real runny parts, which God called water, and real hard parts, which God called land. There was water, there was land, there was goop-ooze. God was real excited with all that had been created, but the moon came out, so God rested and dreamed with the moon.

Day 2

In the morning the sun shined. God woke up, looked around and saw the land and the water and the goop-ooze. God examined the land and the water and noticed that where they came together tiny green shoots were sprouting out all over. They were all growing very fast. Some stood straight and tall as they grew, others were low and trailing. And God was very excited by all these growing things.

God began naming each one of them. Some God called trees, some bushes, some shrubs, some vines. The more God named, the more things grew. And all of a sudden God noticed that the plants were blossoming and God called the blossoms flowers. The blossoms were not green. They were all different colors. And so God named each color. God called one orange, one red, one yellow, one pink, one purple. And the flowers smelled a whole lot better than goop-ooze.

As God explored the plants and the flowers, God noticed some other things growing. There were round things, smooth things and heavy things. There were purple things, and God called them grapes. There were orange things, and God called them oranges. There were red things, and God

Catherine Lewis is assistant chaplain at The Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri.

called them apples. And the fruit tasted a whole lot better than goop-ooze.

The world was colorful now, and there was fruit on the trees, and as God grew tired the day went away with the sun and the night came with the moon and God slept and dreamed of what the next day would bring.

Day 3

On the third day God woke up and saw that everything was still growing very fast. The grass, the trees, the vines, the flowers and fruit were covering all the land. The trees were very big and the vines were big enough to swing on. All this bigness gave God a great idea. Under a big pile of vines, God found a glob of goop-ooze. So, God began shaping creatures out of the goop-ooze. Some had long necks so they could reach the treetops. Some had giant teeth. Some had very long tails. And some had wings to fly. They were very big, like the plants and trees all around them. And God called the creatures dinosaurs.

And God said, "I will create a girl and a boy, who will help me take care of the world."

God was happy because now the dinosaurs could play and swing on the vines, play hide and seek under the shrubs, and rest in the cool shade of the big trees. And when they were hungry, the dinosaurs could eat some of the leaves and the flowers and the fruit.

When the dinosaurs went to take a drink from the water, God noticed that some of the waters of the earth had become so big that it was impossible to see the other side. And God named this enormous body of water the ocean.

God thought the ocean needed some big creatures too. So God went down to the bottom of the ocean and pulled a glob of goop-ooze and began to shape and mold very big sea monsters. But no one really knew what these sea monsters looked like, because they were down deep in the ocean.

When God came out of the water, the sun was going down and the moon was coming up, and God rested.

Day 4

God woke up and was very happy with the earth. God began to dream of smaller creatures, some so tiny they couldn't be seen at all. And God thought of bigger creatures that live in the trees, on the earth, under the earth, in the water and under the water. And God thought of creatures in the air, and creatures with songs, and creatures with growls and some with howls. And God thought of creatures with spots and creatures with stripes and creatures with claws and some with paws. And God thought of creatures that crept and creatures that slithered and creatures that walked and creatures that swam and some that flew.

God took the goop-ooze and began creating creatures, big and small. And God was very excited about all the new creatures. It was a long day, and God rested, full of plans for the next day.

Day 5

God woke up bright and early, quite pleased with the world. And God said, "There is one type of creature I have not yet created. This one will be a lot like me and will be able to help me take care of the world." So God took some goop-ooze and began very carefully and very gently to shape and mold two special creatures. One God called a boy, and one God called a girl.

God held the hand of the boy and the hand of the girl while all the animals gathered about. God said, "I have created a beautiful world. I would like for you to take care of it. Take care of the sky and the water and the land. Take care of the plants and all the creatures on the land and in the water. And take care of each other. But I am not leaving you alone here, because I am in the sky and the water and the land and in all the plants and creatures. And in you.

"I created the world and everything in it out of goop-ooze. There is still plenty of goop-ooze around; and there are still plenty of things left to create. I created you a lot like me. So play and have fun. Squeeze and mold and create.

"I have left the task of naming the creatures to you."

And so the boy called the big brown furry creature a bear, and the girl named the creature with prickly needles a porcupine. And the boy and the girl named creatures all day long.

God was very proud of the boy and girl and all the creation. And so God grew tired and rested.



God took some goop-ooze and created a boy and a girl. And the boy and the girl named the brown, furry creature, "Bear," and the creature with the prickly needles, "Porcupine."

Illustrated by Judy Musch