

The Origin of the Moon: A Story of Beginnings, from the teachings of Science and Reason
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Watch where I go to get this story -

Unfurl a black underlay

This story takes place out in the vastness of space.

In the early, early days of our solar system, our beautiful sun had just ignited into a ball of fire. In the huge explosion that caused the sun to blaze, millions and millions of pieces of rock and carbon and iron blasted into space.

Take out Earth Mark I and gently toss and catch it to demonstrate the pull of gravity. To make Earth Mark I and Earth Mark II, see end notes.



Some of the material fell back to the sun and became fuel for the incredible fire that burns there. Some of the material was blasted far enough that it did not fall back to the sun, but stayed away from it, held just enough by the Sun's gravity that this material stayed nearby. Always circling and circling, the Sun and the material it holds with its gravity is the solar system, looking a little bit like a flat disc.

The millions and millions of pieces of matter circled, often crashing into other pieces. One large piece of matter is the one we call Earth.

Hold up the Earth Mark I.

At that time, Earth was fiery, hot, volcanic, constantly bombarded with the asteroid rocks and icy comets which filled the solar system disc. The Earth was molten rock and iron, tumbling in its orbit and spinning into a spherical planet. Every bit of water which fell to Earth vaporized immediately into clouds which filled the whole sky. This bombardment lasted over 100 million years and there were no people or animals at all!

Roll out Orpheus.

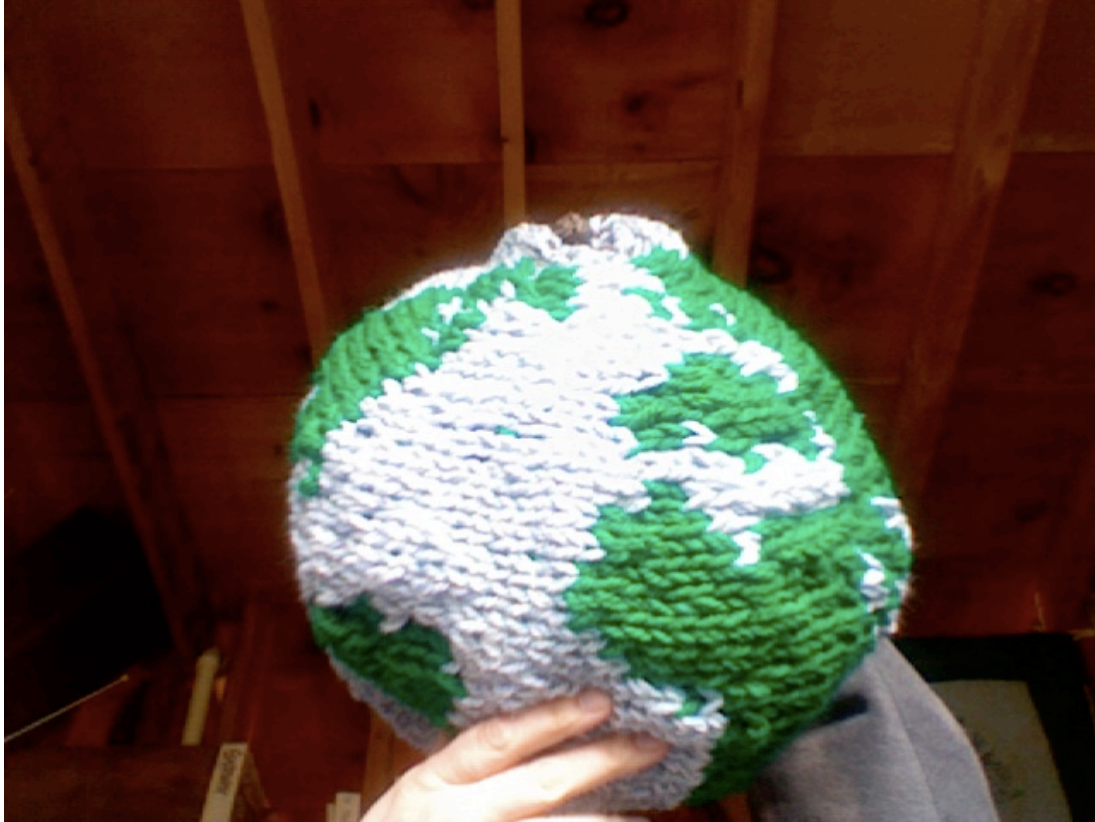
Another huge piece of material - another smaller planet - is called Orpheus by the scientists who figured out that it existed. Orpheus was made of iron, about half the diameter of Earth, also crashing its way through the solar system, on a path very close to Earth.

Show Orpheus smashing into the non-open side of Earth Mark I.

Orpheus crashed into Earth, bringing more iron and minerals, smashing Earth so hard that some material got blown up away from Earth.

Show the Moon being ejected from the inside of Earth Mark I as Orpheus is absorbed, and the Earth is turned inside out to reveal Earth Mark II.

The iron core of Orpheus and the iron core of Earth blasted hydrogen into the atmosphere in a way that helped life begin. The material of the two planets that didn't get blasted up into space merged into one Earth.



The material which was blown far enough that it did not fall back to the Earth stayed in space, held just enough by the Earth's gravity. Always circling and circling, all this material pulled together in about 100 years to become our Moon.

Keep moving the moon in a constant orbit around the Earth as you finish the story.



In time, the bombardments slowed because most of the little bits had been absorbed by the big planets. The Earth cooled, and the rain fell. Earth began to look like the place that we know, still with melted iron inside its center.

Because of the Moon's gravity, the Earth no longer tumbles along its orbit, but stays on a gentle tilt. The Moon keeps our climate steady and makes it possible for us to live here. It causes the ocean's tides to rise and fall. The Moon is still spinning on its own axis and circling the Earth, still moving slowly, slowly away from Earth under the force of the impact with Orpheus three billion years ago.

I wonder if you have ever stared at the Moon.

I wonder what things the Moon influences on Earth.

I wonder what makes the moon seem white in the sky if it is made of iron and rock.

I wonder what you will think of the next time you see the Moon.

I wonder if any beings, very, very far away witnessed the big smash of Orpheus and Earth.

I wonder how gravity works.

I wonder if gravity and motion are part of the Spirit of Love and Mystery that some people call God.

I wonder what other changes will happen to Earth over time.

Notes on making this story:

I knit the Moon using this fabulous pattern with 2 strands of white yarns on size 7 needles:

<http://brentusfirmus.wordpress.com/2008/04/20/sphere-pattern/>

I knit the Earth Mark I from the same pattern, using 4 strands of red and brown worsted and aran yarns held together and size 15 needles. Instead of using a provisional cast-on, I used a regular cable cast-on and regular cast-off, creating an Earth Mark I with an opening across one side.

I knit the Earth Mark II from the same pattern, using the same cast-on and cast-off modifications as for Earth Mark I, adding extra rows after cast on and before cast-off, with a double strand of bulky yarn and size 15 needles. To make the continents, I used the color work chart found here, which may be done by either intarsia or stranding method:

<http://www.birchislandbooks.com/category/abundant-creativity/>

To make Orpheus, I turned an old, all-wool seater inside out. Using a permanent marker, I traced a large dinner plate on the torso near the bottom hem. I used a sewing machine to sew the two layers of torso fabric together along that circular mark, keeping about three inches of the circle open pointing toward the hem. Turning the circle inside out, I stuffed the sleeves and bulk of the sweater inside the newly-created sphere, then machine-overstitched the sphere closed. I threw the whole thing into my washer at the hottest possible setting and then machine-dried it, forming a very solid, sturdy felted sphere. This method could easily be used for the moon, if you have the right colored old sweater lying about!