

EDITORIAL

Living Being: The wonder of nature

by Marco Bersanelli

“Living being” is something that we experience on ourselves, perhaps most of the time unconsciously, but which always accompanies the perception of our existence. Afterwards, when we realize it, a feeling of wonder and gratitude arises, not without a certain sense of vertigo. Of course, we humans are not the only creatures with this strange property of “living”, since none of us would deny being alive to a running cat or a blossoming flower. If ever, we are given the possibility, when it happens to us, to grasp this fact, so mysterious and undue, with full awareness. And that is the instant in which wonder arises.

Science puts before our eyes, at least in part, the multiform conditions through which the bodily reality of organisms (made of the same elementary particles that make stones and stars) is structured to make possible that level of nature which is the living being. The degree of refinement that accompanies even the simplest organism, its being (in a rudimentary way as long as you want) the subject of its own history, its constitutive relationship with the outside world (with “other-than-self”), its fragility and mortality, the unexpected emergence of simple regularities in the global behaviour of a community of living beings, the properties that make possible that prodigy of nature which is biological evolution, are the subject of extensive reflections proposed by the virtual space “Living Being” proposed by *Euresis* and *Camplus* at this Meeting Special Edition.

The gaze placed on these and other wonders of the biological world, accompanied by internationally renowned scholars, is an invitation to let oneself be struck by their existence now, trying to grasp their presence, character, order, history, appeal, and beauty.

We live in a time in which we have been awakened to the awareness of how fragile our personal and collective life is. And then we have the possibility of grasping the living being even more deeply than a fact, but as “something given”, as a phenomenon of exceptional importance in the context of nature. And we are called not to miss the appointment. If it took the universe fourteen billion years to make a blade of grass, a moment of simplicity can be enough for us not to lose its presence

(traduzione di Cecilia Sironi)