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Opening extract from **Wonderful Earth**

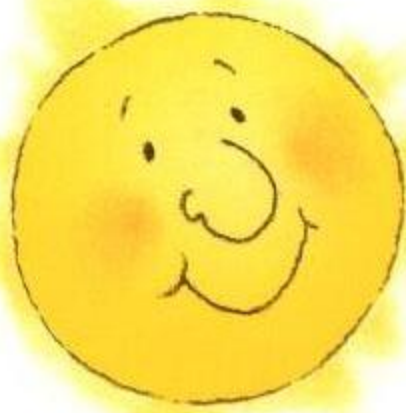
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Out of all the millions and billions and zillions of planets, God picked out one to be special. Why this one? I don't know. It wasn't even big. It was the earth.

God made the earth spin, which made the day and night, and he made the moon go round the earth, which made the months, and he made the earth go round the sun, which made the years.

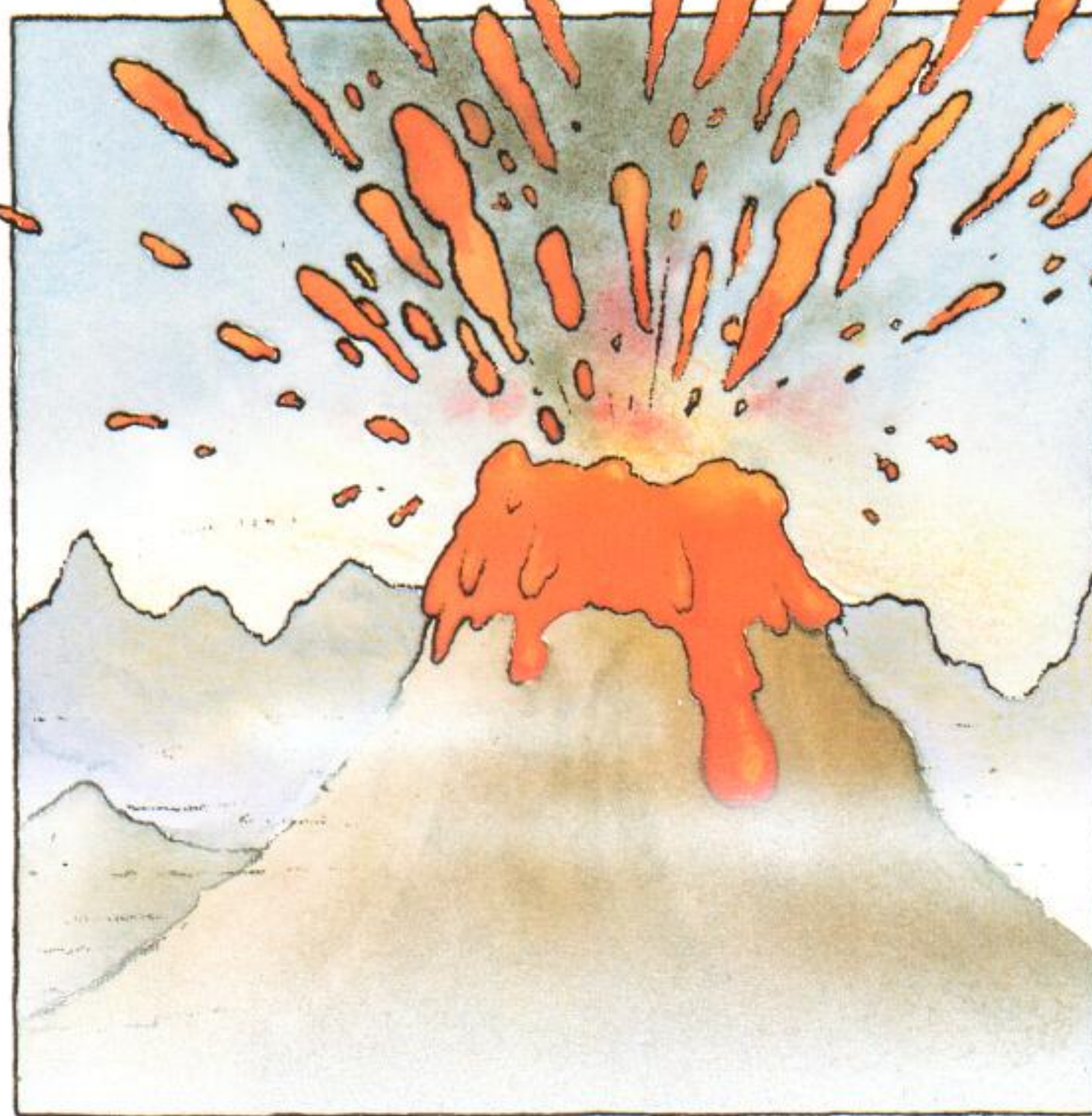
Then, with his finger, he gently nudged the North Pole a little to one side, which made the summer turn to winter and back again.

It was all very complicated, like making a giant clock.

But it all worked perfectly!



On the earth, God made
dry land and water.



The land had mountains and canyons
and deserts and huge exploding volcanoes!



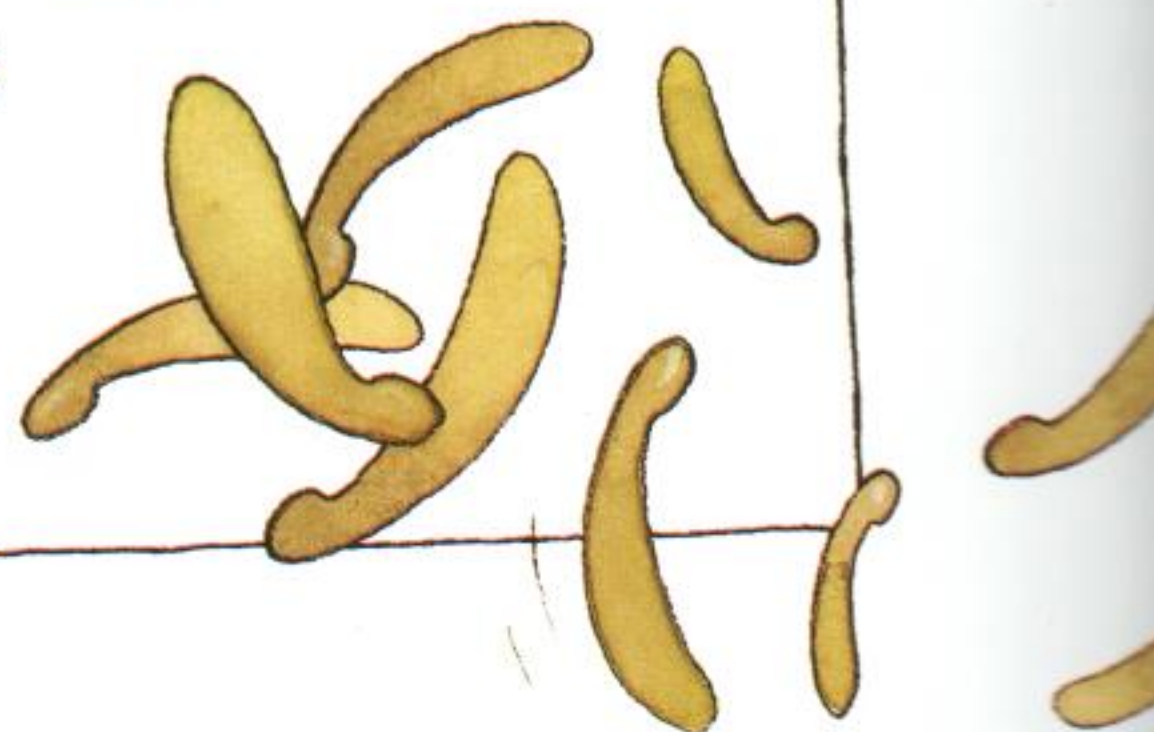
There were all kinds
of plants. Some had
leaves like giant hands,
some had long spiky ones,
some had small
feathery ones and some
had no leaves at all!

Some could grow
in just one day and some
lived for a thousand years!



Some had lovely flowers
and some had
delicious fruit.

Some had seeds
as big as your head,
some had seeds like dust,
and some had seeds
that whirled like
helicopters...



And he made a whole lot of animals
that you have probably never heard of...



And last but not least,
he made something really wonderful!

What do you think it was?



Our poor old world
isn't very well at the moment.
It's in a terrible mess. We're spoiling
the beautiful place God gave us to live in.



We must stop to think.

Does he really want us to chop down the trees?
Does he really want us to make all that smoke?
How can we clean up the rivers and the rain?
How can we look after the plants and animals?

Well it won't be easy. But if we ask him
to help us change, maybe...

just maybe...

