



**G**od showed me in my palm a little thing round as a ball about the size of a hazelnut. I looked at with the eye of my understanding and asked myself: 'What is this thing ?'

And I was answered: 'It is everything that is created.' I wondered how it could survive since it seemed so little it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing. The answer came: 'It endures and ever will endure, because God loves it.' And so everything has being because of God's love.

Julian of Norwich (1342-1423)



A creature is a letter written by the finger of God, and many creatures, like many letters, make up a book. The book of nature, however, is superior to the book of scripture: it cannot be falsified, destroyed, or misinterpreted; it will not induce heresy, and heretics cannot misunderstand it.

Ramon Sibiude (c. 1378-1438)

In every part of the world, in heaven and on earth, He has written and as it were engraven the glory of His power, goodness and eternity.... For all creatures, from the firmament even to the center of the earth, could be witnesses and messengers of His glory to all men, drawing them on to seek Him and, having found Him, to do Him service and honor according to the dignity of a Lord so good, so potent, so wise and everlasting .... For the little singing birds sang of God, the animals acclaimed Him, the elements feared and the mountains resounded with Him, the river and springs threw glances toward Him, the grasses and the flowers smiled.

John Calvin (1509-1564)