

## **Johnmichael Simon**

### Genealogical Schizophrenia

Our ancestors did not commence their ancesing with Adam  
we hear they're saying people started even farther back  
Neanderthal, Cro-Magnon and other apelike forebears  
waders, swimmers, reptiles creepy crawling out of brine,  
carbon dated double helix twists of sandy history  
their snail and fossil features petrified in rock and ice

So say the scientists and who are you and I to doubt them  
yet yesterday I met a man who'd taken on the vows  
he told me very earnestly that I had things mistaken  
that world and all that's in it was just six millenniums young  
and quoted learned sources to assure me that the truth is  
everything that creeps and crawls was fashioned in a week

And sometimes when I look up at the dark and dust-lit bowl  
and wonder if there's life on planets centuries away  
and think how from our loved ones lost we haven't heard a word  
and how to pray for rain and peace and isn't it absurd  
we can't agree if Eden was another Aesop fable  
or whether Adam's apple dropped a billion years before

Perhaps the scientists, you and I and that sincere young cleric  
should go together to the garden, munch something psychedelic

**Johnmichael Simon** was born in England in 1938. He grew up in South Africa and has lived in Israel since 1963. He has been writing poetry seriously since retiring from his technical writing career. He has published several books of poems as well as two collections in collaboration with partner Helen Bar-Lev. His poems have been published in numerous journals and websites. Johnmichael has been awarded several prizes in international poetry competitions: first and third places in the Reuben Rose, first place in the Margaret Reid, third place in the Tom Howard plus numerous honorable mentions in other contests. His short stories have won several honorable mentions. He is the chief editor of Cyclamens and Swords Publishing.