

In the Beginning ...

*(music by Jake Heggie; first sung by Jennifer Larmore on **The Faces of Love**, 1999)*

In the beginning was the Cat,
and the Cat was without purr;
the ethers stirred and there was milk,
and the Cat saw that it was good.

A hand stretched forth across the milk
and scratched behind the Cat's ears ...
and it felt good;

Then the firmament shook
and there was produced a paper bag,
and the Cat went forth, into the bag
and, seeing that it was good ...

She fell asleep, purring.