

contains millions of other Suns and Earths. He pretends, that Moses has not given us the history of the first creation of this globe, but only a detail of the new form that it took when the Almighty turned it from the number of the comets into a planet, and formed it into a proper habitation for men. Comets are, in fact, subjected to terrible vicissitudes on account of the eccentricity of their orbits. Sometimes, like that in 1680, they are a thousand times hotter than red-hot iron; and sometimes a thousand times colder than ice; if they are, therefore, inhabited, it must be by strange creatures, of which we can have no conception.

The planets, on the contrary, are places of rest, where the distance of the sun not varying much, the temperature remains nearly the same, and permits different kinds of plants and animals to grow and multiply.

In the beginning, God created the world; but, observes our author, the earth was then an uninhabitable comet, suffering alternately the excess of heat and cold, in which its substances liquifying and freezing by turns formed a chaos, or an abyss, surrounded with thick darkness: "and darkness covered the face of the deep," & *tenebræ erant super faciam abissi*. This chaos was the atmosphere of the comet,  
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