



*University Eminent Lecture*

# Caring for Nature: From Respect to Reverence

*Speaker:*

**Professor Holmes Rolston III**

*Templeton Laureate 2003*

*Gifford Lecturer 1997/98*

*University Distinguished Professor  
at Colorado State University*



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*Time/* 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

*Venue/* Council Chamber, 5/F Shaw Tower, Shaw Campus  
Hong Kong Baptist University

*Language/* English

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Despite the classical prohibition of moving from fact to value, encounter with the biodiversity and plenitude of being in evolutionary natural history moves us to respect life, even to reverence it. Darwinian accounts are value-laden and necessary for understanding life at the same time that Darwinian theory fails to provide sufficient cause for the historically developing diversity and increasing complexity on Earth.

Earth is a providing ground; matter and energy on Earth support life, but distinctive to life is information superintending this matter-energy, coded in the genetic molecules. Life is generated and regenerated in struggle, persists in its perishing. Such life is also a gift; nature is grace. Biologists and theologians join in celebrating and conserving the genesis on Earth, awed in their encounter with this creativity that characterizes our home planet.

If anything at all on Earth is sacred, it must be this enthralling creativity that characterizes our home planet.