



Earth after the Moon-forming impact

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The Hadean Earth is widely and enduringly pictured as a world of exuberant volcanoes, exploding meteors, gaping craters, infernal heat, and billowing clouds of sulfurous steams; i.e., a world of fire and brimstone punctuated with blows to the head. In the background a gigantic Moon looms over the sky. The popular image has given the Hadean a name that celebrates our mythic roots. Nine out of ten modern natural philosophers agree that a hot early Earth is an inevitable consequence of accretion. The Moon-forming impact ensured that Earth as we know it emerged from a fog of silicate vapor.