

If the Grand Canyon Could Talk

He would warn you how cruel nature could be to a 1.8 billion year old man.

Kicked out of the house for a night, a hiker walked the edge of the Grand Canyon.

I. Vishnu Schist

First, the plates shift.

The canyon unborn.

Volcanic islands collide with the land like two meteors,

An unlikely event. Yet, nature is full of impossibilities:

Men walk the earth today.

II. Zoroaster Granite

The canyon's baptism of fire.

On his 50 millionth birthday, magma scalds him.

Molten hot rock oozes through his veins, leaving a second scar.

Once cooled, the canyon forever welded to the earth.

III. Supergroup

600 million years into life, the canyon crumbles.

Limestone calcifies over his sores, like scar tissue.

Then, the erosion begins;

The million-year waterboarding drowns him,

Leaving layers of sand and shale.

The canyon takes nature's abuse.

At night, the hiker sat on the edge of the canyon, and he gazed into the mile-deep abyss.

IV. Tonto Group

A secondary drowning, rare.

Where the ocean once did not cover, now floods.

The canyon gasps for air.

Sandy beaches turn to mud.

Everyday pressures form yet another stripe of scars.

She is a master of pressure and burden.

The canyon's wounds heal over.

V. Temple, Redwall & Surprise

550 million years from today, Earth taunts the canyon.

She forces him under water so shallow he sees the sun,

Unable to breathe.

The ocean dries, giving him a break, but nature wields her mark,

A thousand-foot wide gouge of limestone, shale, and sandstone.

VI. Supai Group

Nature buries the canyon now.

She is a cruel woman,

Throwing mud and plants.

A gurgling river flows over him.

She suffocates.

He seeks air,

The oxygen turns his next scar blood red.

VII. Coconino & Toroweap

After millions of years of rushing water, she brings desert.

The canyon survives, pelted and whipped by sand and wind.
He took her pain, but never doled out abuse in return.
The ocean retreats and dries, and the animals all perish;
Leaving wedding-cake stacks of sandstone and limestone.
She loves to torment him;
Nature at war with canyon.

VIII. The Rim

The oceans return.
Hot, tropical water and coral reefs.
The cycle of wet and dry expands.
When the water disappears, the canyon bears its last mark.
40 layers of pain, lasting 1.8 billion years, finally over.
Now the canyon rests, collecting dust under a glimmering sun.
He says no man can hide his scars.

The abyss gazed back into him.