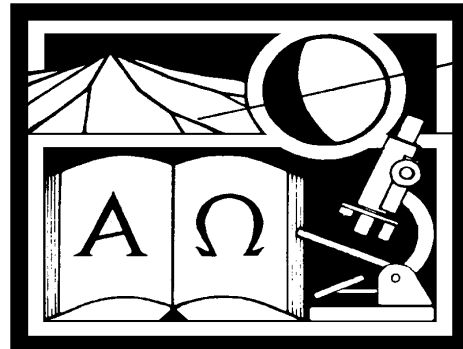


Origins Insights

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August 2001

Human Anatomy: Designed by God or the *Product of Blind Chance Good Mutations?*

by Bob Harsh

One of the oldest arguments that Creationists have used to build their faith that God really does exist has been the concept that the design clearly observed in nature points towards a "supernatural" Designer.

I do not think that "initial" faith for most people is attained through observing God's design in nature. But I do believe that the faith of a believer is strengthened when he/she is able to see their Creator through studying His creation. Throughout scripture we find that, whenever God wanted to bring a new message to man, he made use of miracles. These powerful messages gave the people confidence that the messenger really was sent from God. When John the Baptist sent two of his disciples out to ask Jesus if he really was the Messiah, Jesus answered with, "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised." [Matt. 11; Lk.7] So what kind of an answer was that? He had the power of God so maybe he was really the "God in the flesh" that they were looking for. Materialists have no place in their paradigm of nature for anything supernatural. That premise is fatal to their understanding of the fact that God's creation of the universe and living things

was a supernatural event.

*David the Psalmist wrote, You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know full well. [Ps. 139] John wrote, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, {Why John?} for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. [Rev. *4] When Job was done with his biology lesson, taught by God [Job 38-41], his response was, " My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." [Job 42] Pretty powerful biology lesson! Job got the picture of who God is*

through his understanding of God's place as Creator.

Rene' Dubos wrote his appraisal of nature that, I suppose a theistic evolutionist could agree with. "Everything in the cosmos – from heavenly bodies to human beings – has developed and continues to develop through evolutionary processes." Dubos' paradigm, in my opinion, did not allow him to develop his faith in the Creator God in whom I have placed my faith. Julian Huxley went further in his explanation of nature from a materialist's paradigm. "In the evolutionary system of thought there is no longer need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created: it evolved. So did the animals and plants that inhabit it, including

MEETING INFORMATION

Host: Bob Harsh

Topic: Mitochondrial DNA: Creation or Evolution?

DATE: Tuesday, August 21, 2001

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Mars Alliance Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046

Church Phone: (724)776-9400

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our human selves, mind and soul, as well as brain and body. So did religion.

One of the “expert” guests on “Face the Nation” on December 26, 1999, was Stephen Gould who is one of the most influential proponents of evolution today. He is one of the founders of the “punctuated equilibrium” hypothesis. This is a popular idea of evolution that is groundless as a biological mechanism for anything. I cannot quote Gould word for word, but I was most interested in his response to the moderator’s question about all the fuss that creationists have caused with how evolution should be taught in schools. As is his style, Gould trivialized the “problem” and the proponents of scientific creationism. Even the moderator referred to our side as “so-called scientific creationists”. Gould comforted the audience with his prediction that this was a temporary minor problem that will soon go away. With a big reassuring smile he went on to proclaim that there is no real conflict between “religion” and “science”. The ethicist on the panel piped in that the Bible was never meant to be a book of science but was instead, a book of philosophy. He agreed that there should be no conflict between creationists and scientists, but did not agree that the conflict was so minor that it will go away.

On December 17, 1999 the Kanawha County, West Virginia School Board held a hearing, attended by over 300 concerned people. The topic of discussion was a resolution to support teachers who criticize evolution in the Kanawha County schools. Eric Eyre, from the Charleston Gazette, reported some of the debate that occurred at the school board meeting:

"There is nothing, there is very little in the Bible that is scientific at all," said Weldon Burns, a former science teacher. Betty Jarvis, the

lone school board member to support the resolution said, "We can't allow our children to be indoctrinated and brainwashed by lies."

****From the first, religionists have joined in defending Rev. Charles Darwin's viewpoint. Many religious people have foolishly joined with the forces that promote atheism under the delusion that evolution is not religion and creationism is not science!***

"I don't want someone else teaching my child religion," said Karl Rattan,

rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston. "That's my job as a parent. Creationism is not science. It is not based on science. It is based on faith."

Rebecca Catalanello, for the Charleston Daily Mail reported:

Even some educators said they felt adoption of the resolution would give teachers more freedom to do what they feel is right -- present two sides of the evolutionist theory.

"The idea is not to preach in schools," said Stonewall Jackson Principal Carol Thom, who favored the resolution. "The idea is allow the free flow of ideas."

But opponents had one answer: Religion belongs in the church and the home, not in the science classroom.

Is it really all that important that the truth about origins be taught in school as well as the home and the church? You bet it is! You may recall my article in the November 1997 “Origins Insights” about the important evolutionary naturalist, E.O. Wilson. E.O. Wilson has been responsible for effectively spreading the “gospel of evolutionary naturalism” for decades. Did he start out as a follower of Rev. Darwin? No, he evolved into an evolutionist. E. O. Wilson’s tutors were the authors he read. In college he was introduced to evolutionary naturalism and he bought it; hook,

line and sinker! Humanism became Wilson’s religion. In his autobiography, Naturalist, Wilson wrote,” Religion had to be explained as a material process, from the bottom up, atoms to genes to the human spirit. It had to be embraced by the single grand naturalistic image of man.” E.O. Wilson rejected God because of his faith in naturalism. There are untold thousands of young men and women who also have lost their fragile belief in God due to a new-found faith they acquired during their schooling. I do not know how accurate the July, 1997 TV news report was, but that science reporter said that 60% of scientists today do not believe in God. Way more than 40% of non-scientists believe in God. So of these figures are right, I would say that science education in America does have a religious impact!

We need to lend all of the support that we can to those brave people like our creationist friends in Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Richard Dawkins, the most influential proponent of Rev. Darwin’s dogma today, agrees with my assessment that belief in evolution can aid a person on their road towards the religion of atheism. In 1986, Dawkins wrote a best selling book, The Blind Watchmaker. Dawkins got the idea for his book from a famous treatise by William Paley. Paley’s famous argument from design was titled, Natural Theology – or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity Collected from the Appearances of Nature and was published in 1809. Paley used the story of someone finding a watch on the ground and after picking it up, wondered how the watch came to be. His logical conclusion was that someone, let's call him the designer, designed and then constructed the watch. The explanations that the watch was always there, lying on the ground and it had no beginning, or that the watch had just formed on its own by

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natural forces made no sense to William Paley. Dawkins wrote:

It is a book that I greatly admire, for in his own time its author succeeded in doing what I am struggling to do now. He had a point to make, he passionately believed in it, and he spared no effort to ram it home clearly. He had a proper reverence for the complexity of the living world, and he saw that it demands a very special kind of explanation. The only thing he got wrong – admittedly quite a big thing! – was the explanation itself.

He gave the traditional religious answer to the riddle, but he articulated it more clearly and convincingly than anybody before. The true explanation is utterly different, and it had to wait for one of the most revolutionary thinkers of all time, Charles Darwin.

Paley's argument is made with passionate sincerity and is informed by the best biological scholarship of his day, but it is wrong, gloriously and utterly wrong. [my emphasis] All appearances to the contrary, the only watchmaker in nature is the blind forces of physics, albeit deployed in a very special way. A true watchmaker has foresight: he designs his cogs and springs, and plans their interconnections, with a future purpose in his mind's eye. Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered, and which we now know is the explanation for the existence and apparently purposeful form of all life, has no purpose in mind. It has no mind and no mind's eye. It does not plan for the future. It has no vision, no foresight, no sight at all. If it can be said to play a role of watchmaker in nature, it is the Blind watchmaker.

I said that I could not imagine being an atheist at any time before 1859, when Darwin's Origin of Species was published. 'What about Hume?' replied the philosopher. 'How did Hume explain the com-

plexity of the living world?', I asked. 'He didn't', said the philosopher. 'Why does it need any special explanation?'

Paley knew it needed a special explanation; Darwin Knew it.

*An atheist before Darwin could have said, following Hume: 'I have no explanation for complex biological design. All I know is that God is not a good explanation, so we must wait and hope that somebody comes up with a better one.' I can't help feeling that such a position, though logically sound, would have left one feeling pretty unsatisfied, and that although atheism might have been logically *tenable before Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist. [my emphasis]*

Dawkins, 1986, pp.4-6

I believe Dawkins makes a good point. If life really did evolve from that nonliving primeval soup by spontaneous generation, and living organisms evolved from simple life by means of random mutations and directed by natural selection then the natural conclusion would be that supernatural forces were not necessary for the creation of humans. If Darwinian evolution was good enough for the rest of nature, what would make you think that supernatural forces were necessary for the "creation" of humans?

You might answer, "The Bible said that humans were created as special in God's sight." I would challenge you with, "If the part about the creation of the rest of the living organisms is fable, then on what basis would you segregate out the creation of man as literal?" If the part about the creation of man is fable and there never was a literal Adam and Eve, mere folk heroes, then the story of sinning by eating the forbidden fruit was also just a nice folk tale. How did the soul evolve? It didn't. Sin and the need for a savior is just one more folk tale!

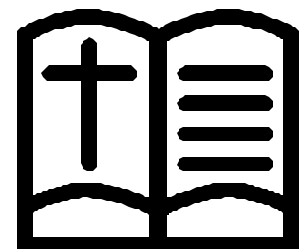
Is the fact that the Pope and the

leaders of many Protestant denominations teach that humans evolved from a common ancestor along with apes cause for alarm? I believe that one of Satan's greatest achievements with humans was his convincing so many church leaders that Darwinian evolution is irrefutable fact! The church's false teaching on the truth or falsehood of evolution/creation has led to the situation we find in our science education for at least the past eighty years. Many atheists have been born from this atmosphere of no logical need for anything supernatural.

We need to understand what is at stake. We, who have been blessed with better understanding of our God as Creator than most other people, need to make productive use of that understanding. We need to come to understand that we are in a spiritual war and it seems that the other side is winning too many battles!

I am sure Creation Science Fellowship in Pittsburgh can play an important role in this war. We need your help! We need your presence at our monthly meetings to provide mutual encouragement. We need your good suggestions as to how we can make CSF make more of an impact. We need for you to provide your volunteer service when it is needed. We need your input into ICC 2002. We need each other's prayers.

Let us understand what is at stake and enthusiastically join in the battle. Enough of our young people have become casualties in this war and have become "functional" atheists due to become convinced that evolutionary dogma is true and the Bible is folk fable!



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Bob Harsh/Reid Moon

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