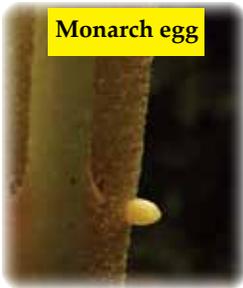


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METAMORPHOSIS MUSH

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Mrs. Jones was working in the yard one day when she called to her children, "Children, come and see what I have found." When Mary and Billy came to their mother, she pointed to a tiny white dot on the



Monarch egg

underside of a milkweed leaf. "Do either of you know what this is?" she asked.

Mary answered, "It kind' a looks like a pimple."

"No, Mary," Mrs. Jones chuckled, "it's an

egg."

"Ah, Mom, I've never seen a chicken egg that small," Billy giggled.

Rumpling Billy's hair, Mrs. Jones smilingly replied, "Silly boy, it's not a chicken egg, but the egg of an insect. When this eggs hatches, a caterpillar will come out.

"A caterpillar is a very special creature. It is an eating machine. The caterpillar spends all of its time eating. As it eats, it gets bigger and bigger, until finally it attaches itself under a branch, sheds its outside skin, and goes into



Monarch caterpillar

"Not anymore," replied Mrs. Jones.

"Then it has to be a butterfly!" stated Mary.

"Not quite yet, Mary. What we would find is what I call 'metamorphosis (me-tu'mor-fu-sis) mush'.

"What is mush?" a confused Billy asked.

Mrs. Jones answered, "Mush is kind of like that oatmeal we sometimes have for breakfast. It is now called a *pupae* yet at this point it doesn't really resemble anything. It no longer looks like a caterpillar, and yet looks nothing like a butterfly. This process of change is called



Monarch Chrysalis

metamorphosis; thus my term 'metamorphosis mush'.

"Now something very special takes place inside the chrysalis . What takes place? We have no idea. Yes, we do know that a caterpillar will go into

a chrysalis, change into a pupae, and then turn into a butterfly. However, science cannot explain how this process of metamorphosis happened.

The creature that emerges from the chrysalis is a completely different creature than it was before. Before, we had a caterpillar that could only crawl to get from place

to place, it could only eat plants, and it had no sexual organ (which means it could not reproduce its own kind). Then the caterpillar wrapped a chrysalis around itself, turned to mush, and emerged a butterfly.

"Now if we were to cut the chrysalis open, what do you we would find?" asked Mrs. Jones.

"A caterpillar!" Billy excitedly answered.

to place, it could only eat plants, and it had no sexual organ (which means it could not reproduce its own kind).



Emerging From Chrysalis

Then the caterpillar wrapped a chrysalis around itself, turned to mush, and emerged a butterfly. "A butterfly is completely different than the caterpillar. I like to think of the butterfly as a creature that was set free, or born again. The butterfly no longer eats plants as the caterpillar, but now eats the nectar of those plants. The butterfly no longer crawls upon the ground, but now flies from place to place.

And the butterfly now has sexual organs, which means it can now reproduce its own kind. This change is not evolution! One of the ideas of evolution is that creatures are always evolving to a higher level, and discarding the excess baggage. In this case the excess baggage would be the caterpillar. So if evolution is true, why doesn't the butterfly



Drying Wings

lay an egg and have a butterfly emerge? Even evolution cannot explain metamorphosis.



Monarch Buterfly

"Metamorphosis is an incredible process. I believe that every time a caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly, we are witnessing a miracle designed by an intelligent Designer. That Designer is God!" Mrs. Jones concluded.

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