



Think & Believe

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The Myth of Secular Science

By Mary Jo Nutting

Most evolutionists would have us believe that evolution is a purely secular scientific theory, while creation is a religious belief. Some get quite irate if you say that evolution is based on faith just as much as creation is. They may go so far as to say that creationists cannot possibly be good scientists.

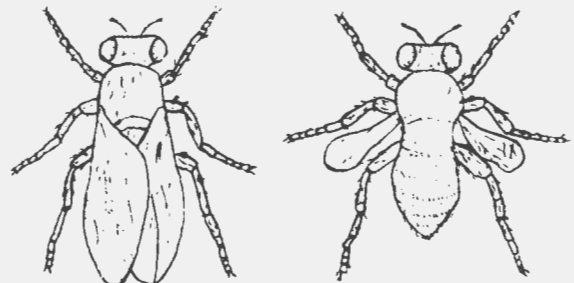
Interestingly enough, early giants in science such as Kepler, Newton, Boyle, Faraday, and others believed the Bible and accepted the creation account of Genesis. They believed in an omnipotent, personal God and viewed science as a means of understanding His handiwork. Experimental, observational science sprouted and grew in this soil of Christian, Biblical theism. Science and the Bible were seen as complimentary, not contradictory.

Why is it then, that modern-day evolutionists get so upset with Bible-believing creationists? Why are they so adamant against teaching creation in the science classroom? They have fallen prey to the myth of "secular" science and created a barrier that did not exist in the early days of science. The word "science" is based on a Latin root word, *scio*, meaning "to know". In the past, the word meant knowledge or the understanding of truth or facts. Thus, science as an activity is a search for truth, and the scientific method involves observation, experimentation, falsifiability, and repeatability, in an effort to discover the truth about our universe. Modern-day evolutionists, however, have redefined science to mean "naturalism" or "materialism". Supernatural creation has never been disproved -- it has simply been defined out of the realm of science.

Although many people try to combine evolution with some sort of belief in God, most leaders of evolutionary "science" are atheists (or the philosophical equivalent, agnostics, pantheists, or humanists). They view evolution as the grand scheme of life -- the unifying force in the universe. Though

they do not agree on the mechanism of evolution yet, they do agree that it is a fact. Julian Huxley said, "The whole of reality *is* evolution -- a single process of self-transformation." For these leaders, evolution is a religion attempting to explain everything without God. They realize that if evolution is true, then God is unnecessary, but evolution is accepted by faith, just as creation is. As Asimov says, "I don't have the evidence to prove that God doesn't exist, but I so strongly suspect he doesn't that I don't want to waste my time."

So evolution is a faith. It is an extrapolation of present natural processes to include the origin of those processes as well. However, a careful study of these present processes logically leads to the conclusion that they could *not* be responsible for the origin of the universe (see Spotlight on Science). The Biblical record gives a consistent, logical explanation of both original and present phenomena, and as such, is a superior basis for true scientific understanding and advancement. (See *The Biblical Basis For Modern Science* by Dr. Henry M. Morris, 1984, for a fuller discussion.)



Flies will be flies!
(see Spotlight on Science)

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Mutations are supposed to be the force which provides the new information necessary for evolution to progress, yet note what evolutionists say about mutations. First, mutations are "mistakes" in the genetic code:

- Heredity is...a conservative force conferring stability on biological systems. Yet no mechanism composed of molecules and subject to the impact of the physical world can be perfect. Mistakes in the copying of the genetic message produce mutations...A mutation is conceived to be a change in the genetic information itself rather than the formation of new combinations of preexisting genetic messages through recombination. (Douglas J. Futuyma. *Evolutionary Biology*. 1979. p. 233)

■ Mutations are random events and are not likely to be beneficial:

- Newly arisen mutations are more likely to be deleterious than beneficial to their carriers because mutations are random events with respect to adaptation. In other words, they occur independently of whether they have beneficial or harmful consequences...Assume that we have an English sentence whose words have been chosen because together they express a certain idea. If single letters or words are replaced with others at random, most changes are unlikely to improve the meaning of the sentence; very likely they will destroy it. The nucleotide sequence of a gene has been "edited" by natural selection, because it makes "sense"; if the sequence is changed at random, the "meaning" will rarely be improved and often will be hampered or destroyed. (Francisco J. Ayala and James W. Valentine. *Evolving: The Theory and Processes of Organic Evolution*. 1979. pp. 90-91.)
- The opportune appearance of mutations permitting animals and plants to meet their needs seems hard to believe. Yet the Darwinian theory is even more demanding: a single plant, a single animal would require thousands and thousands of lucky, appropriate events. Thus, miracles would become the rule: events with an infinitesimal probability could not fail to occur... There is no law against day dreaming, but science must not indulge in it. (Pierre-Paul Grasse. *Evolution of Living Organisms*. 1977. p. 103)

- We all know that many apparent evolutionary bursts are nothing more than brainstorming on the part of particular paleontologists. One splutter in a library can do far more than millions of years of genetic mutations. (Derek V. Ager. *Proceedings of the Geological Association*, Vol 87 (2). 1976. p. 132)

■ Mutations are rare compared to the total genetic variability in population:

- The amount of genetic variation in most organisms is staggering...there is a great amount of genetic variation in natural populations, and thus there is ample opportunity for evolution to occur...the amount of genetic variation present in a population is about 5,000 times greater than that acquired each generation by mutation." (Francisco J. Ayala and James W. Valentine. *Evolving: The Theory and Processes of Organic Evolution*. 1979. pp. 81, 82, 90)
- As a generative principle, providing material for natural selection, random mutation is inadequate both in scope and theoretical grounding. (J. Wicken. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, April 1979. p. 349)

■ Observation: If mutation leads to evolutionary progress, why is everyone so worried about nuclear radiation? Since radiation increases the mutation rate, it would seem that by increasing radiation we could increase the rate of evolution, right? The problem is that observation has shown mutations to be overwhelmingly harmful. For every "beneficial" mutation (if there is any such thing) there are scores of harmful ones, the accumulation of which seems to lead to aging and death. Mutation is really a demonstration of the Second Law of Thermodynamics at work in living systems (see Spotlight on Science). Changes in ordered systems lead to disorder, which in living organisms means disability, disease, or death. Oh, the faith of the evolutionist, to believe that through random mistakes, disintegration and decay can arise complex, ordered, integrated systems!

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SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Mutation: The Evolutionary Creator?

If evolution on the ameba to man scale is to occur, new genetic information must be produced and preserved. Shuffling of genes during sexual reproduction may allow for the expression of new *traits*, but these don't arise from any really *new* genetic information. They are simply the result of existing genes being sorted in new combinations.

Mutations, or changes in genes, are often hailed as the source of new information, but there are problems with this idea. Mutations are basically "mistakes" in the genetic code. It is intuitively obvious that random mistakes aren't likely to lead to improvements in a complex, ordered system. For example, suppose you purchase a new car. Would you like to find random mistakes in the braking system? Obviously, random changes in an ordered system are unlikely to improve things, and observations of living organisms agree. Take the fruit fly for instance. Despite hundreds of generations of induced mutation, fruit flies are still flies. All sorts of deformed flies have hatched, but nothing really qualitatively different or observably "better" than the parent fly has been produced.

Since mutations are merely random happenings, an organism cannot produce a particular mutation just because it needs one. If a particular mutation did happen to be beneficial, it might be preserved if environmental conditions warranted. However, environmental conditions do not "cause" beneficial mutations. They occur independently of their effect. Of course evolutionists reply at this point, "Yes, but if the environment changes, one of the mutants may be better fit to survive than the stock variety." Although theoretically this could happen, statistically the production of new, beneficial traits and groups of traits is *extremely* unlikely.

Finally, mutation assumes pre-existing genes. Mutation does not produce new genes -- it only changes the ones that are already there. Thus, it cannot account for the vast genetic complexity in the world of life today. Only creation accounts for the enormous "pre-existing" gene pool needed by mutation and selection. Assuming the existence of basic created kinds, mutation and selection are helpful concepts in understanding the variation *within* (not between) those kinds. Evolution on the other hand, is an unwarranted extrapolation from observable variation within kind to the tremendous changes needed to produce the diversity of life seen on earth today.

Evolution and the Laws of Science

Two of the best substantiated "laws" of science are the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics. They have been repeatably demonstrated as giving an accurate picture of processes occurring in the universe. The creation model actually predicts these laws, while the evolution model directly contradicts them.

The First Law is the conservation of matter and energy. According to all known observations of the real universe, matter and energy are constant -- they are neither being created nor destroyed, though they may be converted from one form to another. The Second Law deals with the amount of usable energy in a system, or the degree of order in a system. Observations have shown that the degree of disorder (entropy) in system always increases and that usable energy decreases. This means that left to itself, any natural system will "run down". (E.g., my house needs painting, my car is getting rusty, my body is aging, and the universe is dying a heat death.)

Now, how do these two laws apply to the evolution-creation controversy? Evolution requires the *increase* of order and the *gain* of energy. Science has demonstrated that just the opposite is occurring. Since matter and energy are not now being created, and since the universe is "running down" but not yet "dead", we can infer that matter is *not* eternal and that the universe must have had a beginning sometime in the finite past. The universe could not have created itself -- it must have had a Creator.

How do evolutionists deal with this evidence? Most simply ignore it. Others say, without any supporting evidence, that the Second Law does not apply to living systems. However, most who deal with it say that it does not apply since the earth is an open system, with energy constantly coming in from the sun. They believe this energy is sufficient to drive the evolutionary mechanism uphill to greater order and complexity. Although energy input is indeed necessary to temporarily or locally overcome the Second Law, it is not the only condition necessary. There must also be a program to direct the process and a conversion mechanism to implement it, neither of which has been demonstrated with respect to the evolutionary process. We suggest it is more reasonable and more scientific to accept the well-demonstrated laws of science, which point to a Creator, than to cling to the unproved claims of the evolutionist.



Recent Events



February and March have been busy with a variety of lectures including all-day seminars at Intermountain Bible College in Grand Junction and Trinity Reformed Presbyterian in Montrose.

We also helped judge the science fair at Cornerstone Christian School and were encouraged by the quality of several of the projects. One project that particularly interested us was done by Jewel Longuevan, a ninth grader, and involved experimental petrification of chicken bones. We consider her project to be valuable creationist research and were glad to see that she received a blue ribbon in the Mesa County fair and will be able to participate in the state science fair. Congratulations Jewel!

BOOK REVIEW



The Biblical Basis for Modern Science by Dr. Henry M. Morris is a valuable new resource containing many charts and helpful illustrations (516 pp. hardback, Baker Book House, 1984). John W. Oller, Jr., says in the Forward: "Here at last is a book written for people who are not willing to leave their brains behind when they enter the hallowed halls of theological discussion. It is a book for people who are also unwilling to take a leap of 'scientific' faith into darkness. It is for those men and women who are willing to examine the Bible and science critically, thoughtfully, and intelligently... It is loaded with empirical evidences showing the veracity of the Bible and it is probably the best single volume to date on the only sound basis for doing and understanding science." We highly recommend it. (Available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$27.45 including shipping.)

Alpha Omega Institute

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Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.



Upcoming Events



- April 13 Seminar: Golden, CO
First Baptist Church
Contact Rev. Ron Bridges, 279-4605
- April 14 Public Meeting: Haxtun, CO
Sponsored by MO Synod Lutheran Church
Contact Rhoda Renzelman
- April 16 MO Synod Pastor's Conference
The Inn: Estes Park, CO
Contact Rev. John Peterson 867-5801
- May 6 Women's Outreach Luncheon
First Assembly: Grand Junction, CO
Contact Jan Wilke, 243-1233

We are currently scheduling presentations and seminars for this summer and next fall. Let us know immediately if you'd like to arrange something in your area. Our presentations can be tailored to virtually any audience and are appropriate for all ages and levels of scientific background. We do not charge a set fee, but ask that the sponsoring group cover our direct expenses and take a free will offering to help in this work. Whenever possible, we like to arrange several presentations in one area to help make our time more efficient and keep costs to a minimum. We will send you all the information you need to arrange for a successful seminar. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

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