

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Filters and Worldview

By Mary Jo Nutting

In many foreign countries, it is a good idea to filter the water to protect against water-borne sickness. My friend recently shared a memory from her time in Panama about a very large gravity-fed water filter on her family's counter. They just filled the top jug with water and it came out the other end purified and ready to drink. That got me thinking about the need to continually "filter" the information and thoughts that come into our lives through the Word of God!

Unfortunately, most students have not been taught to filter what comes into their lives. Perhaps they use a filter other than the Word of God. Then, instead of drinking pure, clean water, they end up ingesting a big dose of information and thought patterns that poison their hearts and minds.

These filters might be compared to one's worldview. This is a way of seeing the world that a person usually picks up unintentionally, but then uses to "filter" what comes into his/her life. One of the most

common filters students pick up at school or from the media is a humanistic, naturalistic, evolutionary belief system. Though evolution may be called a "theory," it is usually the only theory regarding the origin and development of life that is presented. As a result, most students end up thinking that evolution has been "proven," or at least very well-documented. The problem is that students usually accept this filter without question and then go on to filter subsequent input through it.

Although the secular, naturalistic filter is only one of several possible filters, students find it very difficult to "think outside the box" and consider a different one. But what if this filter isn't true? Then future conclusions derived through this filter will be skewed.

As you read about Richard Dawkins' response to the Bombardier Beetle (p. 3) make sure to note how his filter makes it virtually impossible for him to believe in the life-giving gift through Jesus Christ. As Christians, we believe that the only

accurate, reliable filter is the Word of God. Like all filters, this one requires certain presuppositions and should be tested to see how well it stands the test of time.

After thousands of years of attack, however, the Word of God still stands. It has never been disproved by real scientific observation or the attacks of skeptics.

So the question is, "What is your filter?" 2 Cor. 10:5 tells us to "Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and to cast down every imagination that exalts itself against Christ." This is no small challenge, but a day-by-day, lifetime pursuit of truth. This involves regularly checking to be sure that we are truly filtering our thoughts and imaginations through the Word of God.

If you find that your thoughts, ideas, and information are being filtered through something other than God's Word, we encourage you to begin today. By the help of the Holy Spirit, replace that filter with the pure Word of God.

As Christians, we sometimes have to clean our filters to make sure bad thought patterns, doctrines, or corrupted interpretations of scientific data haven't polluted them. Don't allow your mind to be poisoned! Drink the pure water – the Living Water – not the thoughts tainted by this world's evolutionary, humanistic system. **AOI**

A great way to help family members replace their "filters" is to come to one of AOI's seminars, camps, and tours!



Hibernating Bears and Students by Dave Nutting

Why do bears hibernate? Is it because they are tired and cold or because there is just no food around?

It was a cold morning with a fresh blanket of snow on the ground. Mary Jo exclaimed to our grandson (7), “Brrrrrr! I think we ought to hibernate or migrate.” He thought that was funny but I’ve heard him echo that a few times since. The only problem is, even short naps have never seemed to be on his radar – much less a long winter slumber. Hibernation is great – for bears *and* grandmas. It is tough out in the cold during winter!

Hibernation makes me think about so many students who are waxing cold in their faith by the chilling effects of atheistic indoctrination and

evolutionary dogma. It’s like a winter storm pelting their faith from all directions. These attacks occur, not only in most science classes, but unfortunately, in many of the other classes as well. Some professors even brag about undermining their students’ faith. Surprisingly, this is going on in some Christian colleges. (See T&B July/August 2014.)

While some students hibernate *in* their classes, many go through their time at the university hibernating *from* – or even abandoning – their faith. I received a letter last week from another mom whose son now claims to be an agnostic and contends that Christianity is false. Why? Four years of secular college! Arrrrghhh!

Our hearts go out to so many parents who are experiencing this heart-wrenching scenario.

In 2017, please keep students in prayer – not merely for their spiritual survival, but that they would not hibernate away from their faith. Pray they will actively pursue the Truth. Also, please pray for us at AOI that we would never give up in this important ministry. Have a great 2017 as you seek our awesome Creator-God! **AOI**



Discover Creation Children’s Adventure

This is a great 2-DVD set containing 5 sessions by Lanny Johnson of AOI. It is meant for children and contains much of the information in Lanny’s popular children’s and family programs. They are professionally done and excellently-illustrated with very colorful, high-quality visuals.

Children of all ages (from 4 or 5 up to 105) thoroughly enjoy Lanny and Marilyn’s programs. Whether at churches, family camps, vacation Bible schools, AWANA, etc., hundreds of children have come to the Lord through their ministry.

Make sure you fortify your family with the truth about dinosaurs,

cavemen, geology and the Flood. In these videos, Lanny demonstrates how the “proofs” of evolution fail and how the actual evidence supports Creation.

He does this in a manner children love and, most importantly, in a way that they will understand and remember. No! We are not related to monkeys! Yes! We are created in the image of God!

Lanny’s presentation on “Design vs Chance” is very fun, humorous, engaging, and full of solid information. Lanny shows how creatures like the bombardier beetle and the woodpecker could not have happened by accident! These, and many other creatures were remarkably designed by an awesome creator.



As you read the following article regarding atheist Richard Dawkins’ response to the bombardier beetle, keep in mind that Lanny was saved



in a VBS when he was a child but evolutionary teaching destroyed his faith in high school and college. For many

years, Lanny professed to be an atheist, until he came to one of AOI’s programs, grappled with



Mary Jo Nutting’s design lecture, and eventually came back to the Lord. Children need to hear Lanny’s programs! Available from AOI \$15 each, \$20/set. **AOI**



Dawkins' Response to the Bombardier Beetle

by Brian Mariani

Editor's Note: When Mary Jo and I speak at Universities, students give us arguments which are heavily influenced by evolutionary professors and atheistic websites. Prominent atheist Richard Dawkins' ideas are often parroted by these students. Unfortunately, neither Richard Dawkins nor the students seem to care that their arguments are often quite shallow. They just want to employ, it seems, any potential answer that removes a Creator-God from the picture. In the following article, AOI's Brian Mariani analyzes one such attempt.

The bombardier beetle protects itself by mixing hydrogen peroxide, hydroquinone, peroxidases and catalases together in a mixing chamber within its abdomen. The result is a powerful reaction that propels a boiling hot chemical mixture toward its foes. Some of these beetles employ this defense by strategically secreting a foamy mixture onto their bodies. Others can sling a stream forward along special flanges built into the sides of their body. In the subfamily, *Brachinae* (most often pictured in creationist books), the beetle can shoot/deflect a stream in any direction through a duct in the tip of its abdomen.

The argument from Creationists has been that, if this defense mechanism was developed on a basis of trial and error, the reactions could have been disastrous to the evolving beetle and it would never have evolved to its full, useful state.

Recently, I happened across a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF8pfcruLMO>) of Richard Dawkins explaining how the bombardier beetle has evolved without blowing himself up. By mixing dilute concentrations of the chemicals in question, Dawkins demonstrated that if reactions were mild enough, the system could have developed within the bombardier beetle until the "plumbing" was in place. Then, the strength of the chemicals could have safely increased over time through the

process of natural selection.

I was surprised and impressed that Dawkins could relate a plausible scenario explaining how the chemicals in the bombardier beetle might have safely evolved. But then, I started thinking more about it. Although Dawkins' solution sounded somewhat credible, he would still be hard-pressed to explain how natural selection, based on generations of beetles responding to gradual changes in their environment, could blindly produce chemicals in the first place – much less guide the:

- Development of the glands, chamber, valves, and tubes for the hydrogen peroxide.
- Development of the glands, chamber, valves and tubes for the hydroquinone.
- Development of the reaction chamber which also receives enzyme secretions of peroxidases and catalases.
- Development of stronger concentrations of these chemicals.
- Development of muscles, nerves, and neurological processing (hardware and software) to control this defense mechanism.

If environmental pressures fail to give valid reasons for their selective development, then, *all* of these features would have to be derived *accidentally* by mutations in the genetic code. However, observations have consistently shown that mutations predominantly cause a loss of information and/or a loss of the order of that information.

In addition, each newly-evolved feature would have to prove itself useful enough in order for that trait to out-survive those in other beetles. If these new changes were ever disadvantageous, natural selection would, theoretically,

get rid of those beetles. In this case, adding physical features that are still in development would add more weight making the beetle less mobile and more susceptible to predators. The bombardier beetle's highly-complex cannon would actually be a detriment unless all of its components were properly in place and working together.

Interestingly, the secretions of certain millipedes, earwigs, and cockroaches are similar to those of some bombardier beetles. Because of this, evolutionists must resort to the possibility that this defense system evolved independently in separate groups – commonly referred to as convergent evolution.¹ However, if it is highly improbable to evolve one time, it is immensely more unlikely that these features evolved in *different* organisms at *different* times.

Instead, the bombardier beetle appears to have incredible features that scream, "Design!" It is the evolutionist's job to prove that this creature has evolved and to give reasonable evidence for its supposed evolutionary transitions. Speculation alone is not evidence. Contrary to what is portrayed in our culture, proponents of evolution have a lot to try to explain! **AOI**

¹Mark Armitage and Luke Mullisen, Preliminary Observations of the Pygidial Gland of the Bombardier Beetle, *Brachinus* sp., April 1, 2003, Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/evidence-for-creation/design-in-nature/pygidial-gland-of-the-bombardier-beetle-brachinus-sp/>, accessed August 26, 2016.



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Local Events at our Ministry Center!

2140 Broadway - Unit B-104

- Worldviews and the Evidence Class** Thursdays, 6:30-9pm
- Creation Family Movie Nights** 7pm first Friday/month
- Creation Family Expeditions** 9am third Sat./month starting March 18. Bring your family to our ministry center for science teaching and guided expeditions! First up: **Fossil Hunting!**
- Creation Tours** – bring your family or group to our office for a presentation and guided tour of our fabulous local geology and/or dinosaur museum.

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Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (800) 377-1923 • www.DiscoverCreation.org

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