

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Israeli Scientist Fired for Questioning Evolution *By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

While in Jerusalem, we had a good conversation with a man who had received degrees from the Hebrew University. While he was there, the university fired the chief scientist for the Israeli education ministry, Dr. Gavriel Avital. Why did Dr. Avital go from the chief scientist to being considered a non-scientist? He had the audacity to question whether evolution – *ONLY* – should be taught in the schools and indicated he didn't think that man is the cause of global warming. A statement was prepared that every professor at the university was required to read in their classes lambasting Dr. Avital's views as unscientific and grounds for dismissal from his post. Consider the titles of some of the news articles that came out regarding this:

Scientists Ire After Top Education Official Questions Evolution

Education Ministry chief scientist's dismissive remarks on fundamental tenets of science spark calls for his ouster.

(<https://www.haaretz.com/1.5032977> Kashii, O. and Rinat, Z., Scientists irate after top education official questions evolution, Haaretz.com, 21 February 2010)

Chief scientist who questioned evolution theory fired

(<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3964117,00.html> Velmer, T., Chief scientist who questioned evolution theory fired, Ynetnews, 4 October 2010)

Sa'ar Dismisses Chief Scientist for Questioning Evolution *Gavriel Avital sparked controversy with statements over creationism and global warming.*

(<https://www.haaretz.com/1.5121037>; Kashti, O., Sa'ar dismisses chief scientist for questioning evolution, Haaretz.com, 5 October 2010)

As with the Israeli scientist mentioned above, Dave, personally found out the cost of believing in creation while teaching at a state-sponsored school. In his statistics class, he included an example which fit well with the topic at hand – the probability of independent events. He showed the statistical improbability of getting one simple protein by accident. We think it was this one statement that got him in trouble: "I don't know what they call these odds in the biology department, but in statistics, we call them zero." Five minutes later, he heard from the department chairman, "I hear you're teaching religion in the classroom." Dave showed him the calculations and related what he had stated. Then he asked, "Is that religion?" The chairman replied, "No, but this creation/evolution topic is a touchy subject at this institution. You had better drop it!" A few weeks later, Dave was told his contract would not be renewed. Even though he knew the real reason, he asked, "Is it my teaching?" (He knew it wasn't, as he had very good reviews.) All they would tell Dave was, "We're just doing something different."

Later, though, two different friends who had personal conversations with different professors in the department, confirmed that it was because Dave was "too creationist" for them.

Contributing to this lack of academic freedom, well-known atheist and extremely vocal anti-creationist, Richard Dawkins, voiced his caustic opinion regarding Dr. Avital: "It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that). (Quoted in: <https://creation.com/heresy-in-israel-gavriel-avital>.) When we were at the University of Minnesota, we had a student, likely influenced by Dawkins, say, "You *should* have been fired. You are stupid to believe in Creation."

That is the climate at the universities throughout much of the world and, unfortunately, is the climate even in a country whose ancestors, through God's inspiration, brought us the Biblical account of Creation.

Looking back on Dave's experience in the 1980's, we suppose we could have fought the decision, but the AOI Board was already wanting us to go full-time with creation ministry. Looking back, God used it to get us there a bit more quickly! That was over 30 years ago, and it's been quite an adventure seeing where God has led ever since! **AOI**



Learn Creation and Minister with AOI! Free!

AOI would like to offer a few individuals a great opportunity.

Do you have a desire to be actively involved in creation ministry while you deepen your knowledge of apologetics and creation? Perhaps you want to go with our staff to minister on the university campus, take an active role in seminars, or help with behind-the-scenes ministry in the AOI office. Whether it's a few hours a week, or even full-time, let's talk about how together, we can expand the outreach ministry of AOI while you learn the basics of creation science, apologetics, and the Bible. We want to come alongside you with a flexible program tailored to your needs and desires. It might be that God is leading you to full-time creation ministry. If so, we want to help. If you're a student at Colorado Mesa University, consider training at AOI as well. In 1st Peter, we are encouraged to be ready to give a defense for our faith. We look forward to helping you in that endeavor and to encourage you on your particular journey.



The Master Designer: The Song


Review by Brian Mariani

Have you ever been enthralled while watching an animal documentary only to have the narrator attribute all that amazing design to the “miracle” of evolution? Many nature shows often “worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator” (Rom 1:25). This DVD, however, directs our thoughts and praise in

the right direction!! **The Master Designer: The Song**, is a beautiful display of incredible creatures that show the intentionality and intelligence of our God.

You'll be amazed at the complexity of the seemingly simple honey bee and discover how

the unbelievable design of the wolf, bison, camel, and elk present clear challenges to the theory of evolution. This

75-minute DVD (with bonus features) is available, on sale, from AOI for **\$20** (plus **\$4** shipping and handling). Buy one for yourself and others to share with family and friends. Remember, your purchase helps support the ministry of AOI. 



Cone Sea Snails – A Terrible Beauty

by Dr. David Demick

Seashells are among the most varied and beautiful of all God’s creations. They have been valued from early antiquity and have been used as trade goods by many cultures. Of the many prized seashells, cone shells are near the top in terms of beauty and value. Indeed, the rare east Pacific species *Conus gloriamaris*, the “glory-of-the-seas,” has stood atop the seashell value chart for several centuries (specimens of good condition can command prices in the tens of thousands of dollars).



Conus Gloriamis
Richard Parker [CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)]

Although splendid to behold, cones also have a reputation as the most poisonous and dangerous of all shellfish. One deadly species, the *Conus geographus*, or “geographic cone,” living on the coasts of Australia, has inspired an Aussie saying, “If it’s a cone, leave it alone!” However, the chemistry of their poison – which is amazing marine biologists and pharmacologists alike – may lead to dozens of new and useful drugs.

Cones are classified as mollusks, of the gastropod, or snail type. Most mollusks have a radula – a raspy “tongue” used for eating. Whereas the radula of most snails are used to scrape up algae or other tiny food particles, the cones’ radulae are terribly effective hunting weapons – used to take down large prey such as fish, worms, and other mollusks. Held at the end of the proboscis, these cone radulae are tiny, hollow, barbed harpoons used, in almost any direction, to impale and inject their prey with deadly venom. (See picture.)

With great force generated by the venom bulb and held in readiness by a sphincter muscle, cones release their

toxic charge through the proboscis or “tether,” transmitting the poison into the prey. While paralysis is almost always immediate, the poison can inflict terrible pain, or deaden pain, depending on the offensive or defensive effect desired.

Once their prey is immobilized, cones employ a large rostrum or “false mouth” which extends out to envelope the catch and pull it in to be digested.

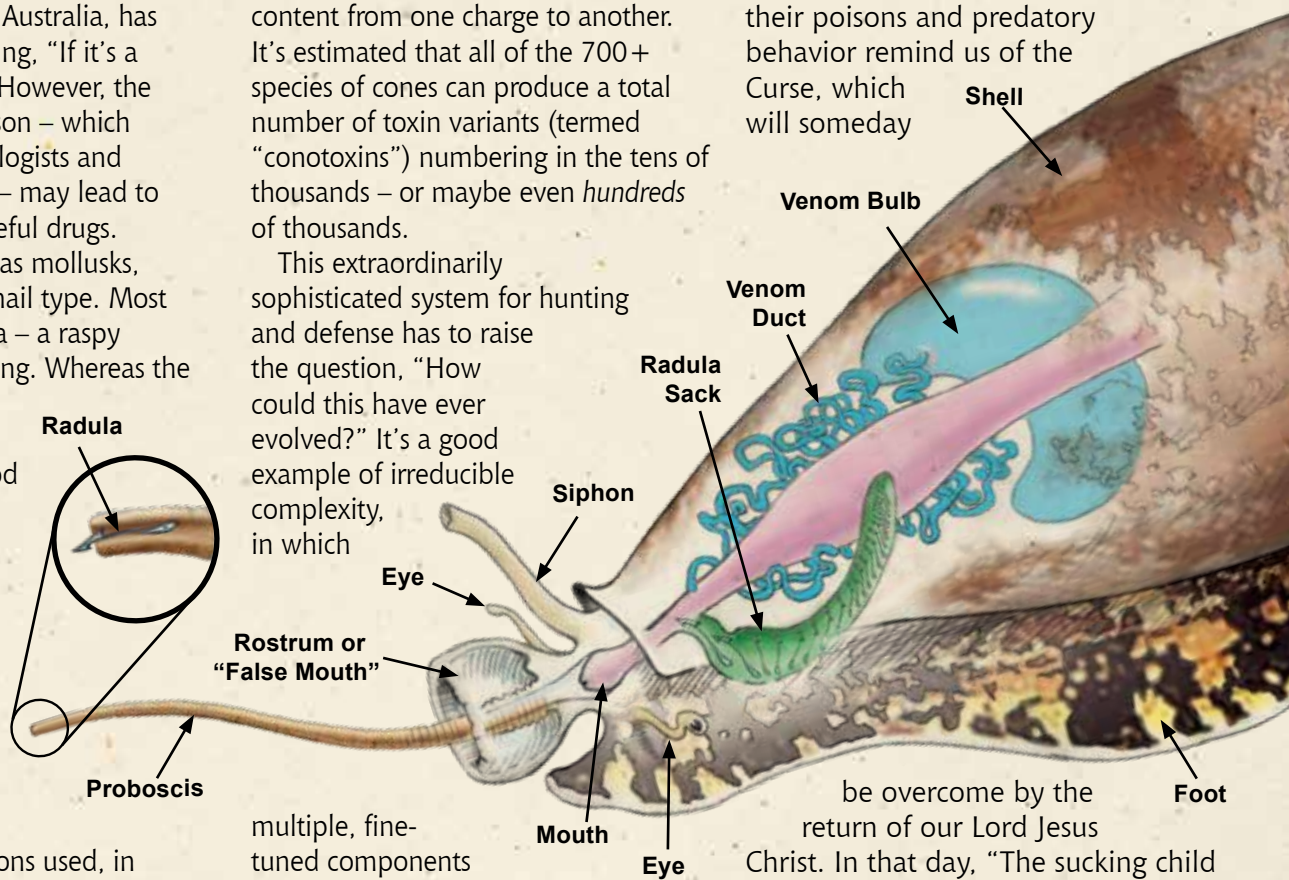
Apparently, cones are able to mix different blends of poison cocktails “on the fly” as the need arises. While their poison arsenal can include hundreds of different neuroactive peptides (small proteins that affect nerves), cones can vary the poison content from one charge to another. It’s estimated that all of the 700+ species of cones can produce a total number of toxin variants (termed “conotoxins”) numbering in the tens of thousands – or maybe even *hundreds* of thousands.

This extraordinarily sophisticated system for hunting and defense has to raise the question, “How could this have ever evolved?” It’s a good example of irreducible complexity, in which

multiple, fine-tuned components all have to work together or the system is useless. For example, what good is an arsenal of neurotoxins without the system to deliver them? Or, what good is a venom bulb without a sphincter muscle to control it?

While displaying incredible design, the conotoxins show considerable promise as human therapeutic drugs. So far, one named Prialt has been approved by the FDA as a non-opioid painkiller. Dozens of others are being studied, with more applications undoubtedly to follow. They show promise, not only as painkillers, but also for treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, myocardial infarction, and hypertension. As is so often the case, we are developing new drugs and technologies by copying what God has already produced in nature.

To sum up, the great beauty and variety of cone shells testifies to the infinite creativity of God, who makes seemingly endless varieties from infinite combinations. The cones’ highly sophisticated hunting technology shows the Creator’s wisdom and provision. In addition, their poisons and predatory behavior remind us of the Curse, which will someday



be overcome by the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. In that day, “The sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper’s den.” (Isaiah 11:8) In that day, it will also be safe to pick up live cone shells and closely admire their amazing beauty. **AOI**

Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



While we were in Jerusalem, a father brought his eleven-year-old son to me because he was quite confused about dinosaurs and evolution and how that fits with the Bible. After two hours, I think the issue was cleared up for him.

One father, who was a teacher, told us that elementary-school children in Israel are not taught evolution. However, this eleven-year-old, along with other students, was quite confused. The truth is, contrary to what some parents think, some teachers actually *do* teach evolution. Also, many children are swayed by evolutionary ideas presented in various forms of the media.

Even if children make it through elementary school unscathed, major evolutionary indoctrination comes in the older grades. One high school biology teacher told us that he was required to teach evolution and not creation.

The father of the eleven-year-old said that by the time students reach the university, they are so indoctrinated in evolution that considering another perspective would be almost inconceivable – akin to believing an alien spaceship was in their backyard.

Another teacher shared what her fourth-grade student said to her after hearing some of our creation teaching: “I was always afraid that when I would go to high school or college, I would be taught evolution. I was afraid I would be asked in what I believe and I wouldn’t know what to answer. Now I’m not afraid anymore! I know how to confidently give an answer.”

While aware of the challenges he will face as he gets older, we were encouraged to find that this young man was listening carefully and considering the truths we presented.

Even in the city of Jerusalem, where the teachings of the Torah would seemingly be held in high esteem, young people are being indoctrinated into evolution, without parents having a clue. **AOI**

Partner with us in 2019

All of AOI’s speaking teams count it a real blessing to bring the creation-and-gospel message to people of all ages – in the US and throughout the world. We thank you for standing with us in this ministry. Students and adults need to hear the Truth! There is a lot to do and the opposition is getting more vocal. **Please consider helping us both financially and prayerfully.** **YOU** are an important part of this ministry.

Yellowstone

Creation Tour

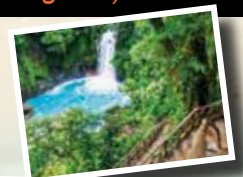
• **Aug. 30 – Sept. 3, 2019**

Hot springs, geysers, boiling mudpots, and wildlife – plus experienced creation guides, great food, fun, and fellowship. Don’t miss out! Call today to register for this super-affordable, amazing adventure!



Costa Rica *Creation Adventure (In Progress)*

As you read this, Dave and Mary Jo are bringing the creation-and-gospel message once again to schools, churches, and universities in Costa Rica. Please pray for this outreach ministry and for the creation tour they will be leading to see the amazing design and evidences for creation throughout this amazingly colorful country! Call AOI at 970-523-9943 to express interest in next year’s tour and to receive detailed information to begin making plans to join AOI on this amazing adventure!



Want to be tempted for 2020? Visit:

Discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure/



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