

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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That Old Snake

by Dave Nutting

“How could you have listened to that slippery, slimy snake?” Adam may have asked Eve that question. How could she listen to such a grotesque serpent? The first thing to keep in mind is that, prior to that incident in the Garden of Eden, the serpent was likely much more attractive – perhaps charming, and enticing! But then – the Curse!

The same question could also be asked today by a woman of her husband after getting hooked into a financially devastating business deal with a sleazy “friend.” “I never trusted Ralph, that snake,” she might say.

Another man may ask that question of his estranged wife after she dove into sin with the marriage counselor she was seeing.

All these individuals had “good” excuses such as: “The serpent said I would gain knowledge and be like God.”

“He made it sound like God was lying to me.”

“He said we’d never have to worry about finances again.”

“The counselor actually listened to me and cared for me. He said I deserved better. I didn’t know he did that to others, too. The snake!”

That is the label we still use – even after almost 6,000 years since the serpent beguiled Eve. That old deceiver snake is still disguising his evil traps to draw

people into his plan.

“IFFFF you are God, turn these stones into bread.

“IFFFF you really love me,” says the charming teen boy or girl. Or,

“Aunt Gertie has plenty of money. She won’t miss that jewelry now. When I get that new car, I can bless her in her older age by giving her rides.”

One of my presentations is called **Lessons from Nature**.

In it, I show pictures of praying mantises. Some have their front legs folded as in prayer. Another is of a mantis springing into the air to catch a moth. Looking closely, those “praying hands” hide sharp daggers that will skewer a victim. Its face also looks like pure evil! The warning to us is that everyone who appears to be praying may not be trustworthy.

Another slide I use is of the angler fish that lives

in the dark depths of the sea. Its long filament attached to his head has a light on the end to attract smaller fish. Thinking they are going to get a tasty meal, they *become* the meal.

Someone may ask, “Why would God design creatures with such amazing features that mimic something desirable? What’s the deal here? Is



God really good? Think about it. Perhaps He gives us these examples in nature to remind us that the Old Snake also disguises his plans to ensnare us. We have to be cautious even with things that look good and desirable. That was the trick he used on Eve in the Garden and one he still uses today.

School is now in full swing for millions of kids. That Old Snake is using the lie (philosophy) of evolution to steal kids away from God’s kingdom. They might hear, “All good scientists accept evolution.” Colossians 2:8 warns us, “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit...” Parents: Make sure you teach this verse to your kids and teach them **not** to listen to that slippery, slimy snake! **AOI**



My Little Library - Poem by Dean Rickman, AOI Board Member

A booklet can be found...
inside the glove box of my car.
It is called the "Owner's Manual"
and reading it is hard.

You see, I'm not mechanical
and have no time to spend
on detailed charts and drawings
that I can't comprehend.

So early on, and months ago,
I edited that script.

I didn't need to read those chapters
that I didn't get.

Maintenance pages got torn out
as did the drawings there.

I also crossed out anything
that covered car repair.

I soon took out the Index
as the pages referenced there
were all now in my trash can
near my favorite office chair.

The Welcome pages went away

and Winter Driving too.

That's way too much for me to learn,
besides, the car's still new.

So now the book is smaller with
fewer things to read.

Don't ask me how to lubricate
– a thing that car might need
or check the tires, brakes, or trans,
those only mystify.

I just like driving it, that's all...
just take it for a ride.

Ignoring fundamentals
in my books is what I do.

From mysteries to history,
I tear and toss and, through
my downsized versions, I now have
worthless, empty spines
of books with nonsense themes and poems
that simply just don't rhyme.

So then I found my Bible full
of things I could ignore.

Creation seemed too out of date.
It wound up on the floor.

The stories of the miracles
were hard to comprehend.

I crossed them off along with Noah,
his Ark, and all their friends.

Away went all the prophets and
the books I didn't like.

Bethlehem and Lions' dens all
fell under my knife.

Soon the book was whittled down
to these two words that read
"Jesus Wept." Yes, just one verse
was all my Bible
said. **AOI**

Evolution's Achilles' Heels – Review by Dave Nutting

Someone asked me what book he should send his niece who is heading to a secular university. I was told she knows she will be slammed with evolution since she is required to take several types of science classes. It "just happened" that the week before I had viewed, and was quite impressed with, an updated and greatly expanded version of this great book, **Evolution's Achilles' Heels**. It just came out in June of this year! I quickly recommended it.

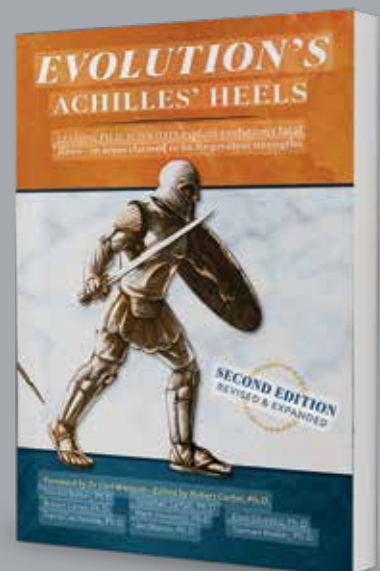
Armed with the evidence presented in this book written by numerous scientists who have rejected evolution, this student should be able to (with God's help) not only withstand

the onslaught herself, but perhaps, help other students around her.

This powerful book (illustrated in full color) exposes the fatal flaws of evolutionary thinking. Like no other work that we are aware of, it is authored by nine Ph.D. scientists to produce a coordinated, coherent, powerful argument. All of the authors received their doctorates from similar secular universities as their evolutionary counterparts. Each is a specialist in a field relevant to the subject written about: Natural selection, origin of life, geology, genetics, radiometric dating, the fossil record, cosmology, and ethics.

Evolution's Achilles' Heels directly demolishes the very pillars of the belief system that underpins

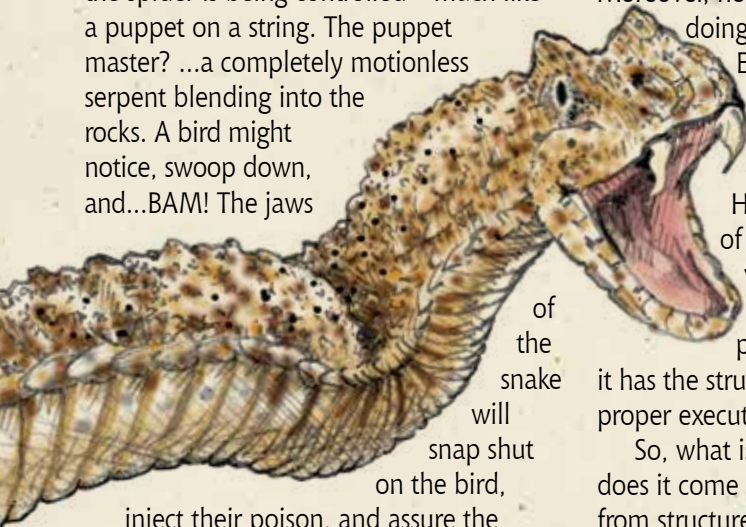
evolutionary naturalism. (Softcover 323 pages, \$19.00 plus shipping and handling). **AOI**



The Design of Intelligence

by Mark Sonmor

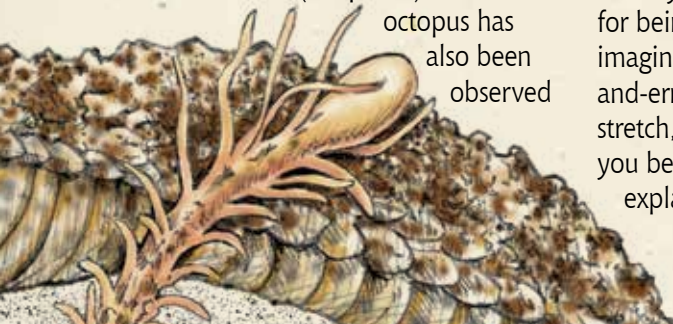
If you happen to be hiking through the Zagros mountains between Iran and Iraq, and if you're really patient, you might see a large spider dancing lightly on the rocks. If you look closer, however, you'll notice the spider is being controlled – much like a puppet on a string. The puppet master? ...a completely motionless serpent blending into the rocks. A bird might notice, swoop down, and...BAM! The jaws



inject their poison, and assure the snake of one more meal.

The spider-tailed viper is one of many examples of designed intelligence in the animal kingdom. Not only are its camouflage and structure difficult to explain by natural selection, its intelligent use of these capabilities challenges the notion that evolution is a blind enterprise, primarily dependent on chance. Intelligence indicates intentionality and higher purpose – something men like Charles Darwin and Richard Dawkins denied and actively suppressed.

The mimic octopus, for example, lives in a sandy, relatively structureless environment and must rely on mimicry to survive. By burying all but its two arms in the sand and aligning and undulating them properly, it mimics the deadly sea snake. By grouping its tentacles together and swimming along the bottom, it mimics a banded sole with its poisonous spines. In addition to a crab, (see photo) the mimic octopus has also been observed



to imitate jellyfish, lion fish, sand anemones, mantis shrimp, and stingrays.¹

How does the mimic octopus know what kind of creature to imitate in response to each kind of threat?

Moreover, how does it know that it's

doing the imitation correctly?

Even if it was taught this behavior, how does it practice? The same goes for the spider-tailed viper.

How much study of actual spiders was required in order to flick its tail properly? Just because

it has the structure doesn't guarantee proper execution.

So, what is intelligence and where does it come from? Can you separate it from structure? What good is intelligence if it doesn't match the body it's in?

To explain the origin of human

intelligence, evolutionists will commonly cite an environmental change that forced and/or allowed our supposed ancestors upright stance, the need for tools, or better social interaction.

They then postulate that intelligence came along to match that need – much like water flows to fill a void. Greater structure resulted in bigger brains which, by the way, required wider birth canals. You can thank your great, great grandmothers for being so accommodating. Can you imagine the trials involved in that trial-and-error process? This may sound like a stretch, (literally) but it stands to reason if you believe everything can, and must be, explained by physical processes.

Yet, intelligence isn't simply the

firing of synapses or reaction of chemicals. Intelligence is integrated with your body yet still possesses self-awareness to think abstractly *outside* your body. While this is going on, your autonomic nervous system is telling your heart to beat, lungs to breathe, etc., and your limbic system is continually gathering and processing information on a whole other complex level.

For the Christian, it seems rather simple. Intelligence, as a component of spirit, is part of the animating principle of our bodies ultimately tracing its source back to God. James 2:26 states that the body apart from the spirit is dead. A dead body can have all the parts intact to support life, but once the spirit is gone, that's it. While it's true that behavior can be learned and that organisms adjust to new information, that doesn't explain the source of

intelligence in the first place.

C.S. Lewis posed a similar argument regarding morality. He believed mankind's sense of moral obligation is one of the greatest evidences of God. Men like Sigmund Freud, however, attribute this to social conditioning and to environmental pressures – that morality simply benefits survival.

In 1 Cor. 2:14, the apostle Paul stated, "The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." While it is reasonable to believe that the origin of abstract realities like intelligence and morality rest in God, reason alone is not enough. In fact, it can sometimes keep us *from* God.

God asks us to come to Him by faith and to trust on a spiritual level – to go beyond the control reason offers and seek Him relationally. Heb. 11:6 says, "...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." **AOL**

¹The Mimic Octopus – the ocean's eight-armed impression artist, by Calvin Smith, *Creation* 38(3):12–14, July 2016

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



What is AOI's niche in Creation training? That is a great question to which we have given great consideration – especially over

the last few years. Here is what we keep coming back to: We feel God is leading us to train those who really see the need for Creation ministry and desire to dig deeper. This can take a few routes:

1. Someone may want to actively participate in Creation ministry as a vocation. This could be in your own area. You would not need to move.
2. A student who realizes the fierce battle that is raging for their faith may want additional help or may want to help his colleagues not become casualties to the anti-God indoctrination so prevalent at college.

3. Ministry leaders may want more training as they realize that their constituents would be strengthened in their faith by removing the stumbling block of evolutionary indoctrination.
4. A homeschool mom or dad may want to fortify their own family and help others who are struggling with this issue. We recognize that you don't need a science degree to be effective in this ministry. By training many lay persons, we believe we'll see a much faster spread of the Creation message.

How about you? We have begun another **Introduction to Creation Ministry class via Zoom** on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 MT. Even if you missed a couple of sessions, we can catch you up. Call us ASAP to get our schedule and to get involved in these **FREE** sessions. 970-523-9943. 



Truth Matters Club 7–8:30 PM, Thursdays

Receive Creation and worldview teaching in person! We mix these sessions up with various staff and intern speakers. Sessions (meant for 5th grade +) include: Design, Dinosaurs, Geology/ Flood, Fossils, and Thinking Outside the Box. You can get a deeper appreciation and understanding of Genesis along with solid scientific evidence. As part of this, we will also have several field excursions to important sites. Cost: **Free**. Call Dave (970) 523-9943 for more information or check out: DiscoverCreation.org/creation-training/truth-matters/.

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If our ministry has encouraged you, please consider partnering with us prayerfully and financially.

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- Dinosaur museum and dinosaur sites
- Colorado National Monument

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Costa Rica Creation Tour

Feb. 23 – March 5, 2026



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