



Where Do We Come From?

by Casey Carmical

I recently ran across an article in the *Skeptical Inquirer* entitled, "Where Do We Come From? A Humbling Look at the Biology of Life's Origin", by Dr. Massimo Pigliucci of the University of Tennessee. This article caught my attention because I have been asked a number of times why I still believe in God even though biology has made Him obsolete. Many people are still convinced that life can arise from non-life if the conditions are right.

I found Dr. Pigliucci's article to be a very interesting read. It was refreshing to read an honest article on the subject. He starts off by saying, "The origin of life on Earth is a fundamental scientific question, but we do not know as much as many biology textbooks would like

you to believe." He then goes on to explain the development of scientific theories on the origin of life.

In the 1950's, a scientist named Stanley Miller attempted an experiment to reproduce the "primordial soup." This experiment gave hope to many that creation of life in a test tube would be accomplished in a matter of time. However, Pigliucci notes wryly that "such experiments have not progressed much further than their original prototype, leaving us with a sour aftertaste from the primordial soup" (p. 24).

After the 1950's, it was decided that nucleic acids preceded proteins, and the origin of life was to be explained by

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DEVOTIONAL THE WRITING OF GOD

"And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables" (Exodus 32:16). In this verse is the first occurrence in the Bible of the word "writing" and, appropriately enough, it is speaking of "the writing of God" rather than the writings of men. The reference of course is to the two tables of the law, the Ten Commandments, "written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18), and rewritten on a sec-

ond set of stone tables to replace the first, once they were shattered (Exodus 34:1). All Scripture is divinely inspired, but the Ten Commandments were divinely inscribed! This testimony of their unique importance is a sobering condemnation of any who ignore them or distort their meaning (including the one referring to the six-day creation in Exodus 20:11). But there is another writing of God this one

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Special points of interest:

- November meeting: 18th at First Baptist, Concord, in the Fireside Room, 6:30 PM
- December Meeting: 9th at First Baptist, Concord, in the Fireside Room, 6:30 PM
- Coming in February: Darwin Day! Be prepared!
- We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: www.etcса.org/

THE MILLER-UREY EXPERIMENT: LIFE? By Bob Zuvich

Several years ago, when my sister-in-law was at my home, she told me that she was taught that "they" had made life in a laboratory. This is a total lie. In 1952-1953 there were two scientists named Stanley L. Miller and Harold C. Urey in Chicago who did an experiment in the laboratory to show how life could form in a primordial soup. They passed electrical sparks (60,000 volts) through a glass housing containing methane, water vapor, hydrogen, and ammonia-NO OXYGEN. There was a trap to collect the results, and all kinds of precautions. After about a week, the experimenters found that some simple amino acids had formed. Did they get the beginnings of life? Did they prove that the spontaneous generation of life from life was possible? Let's check the results and see:

- They got right and left-handed amino acids.
- Right-handed amino acids are the mirror image of left-handed.
- They are composed of the same exact material in the same ORDER, but they face in opposite directions-like a mirror!
- This is an utter failure. Only left-handed amino acids are possible for life to exist.
- EVEN ONE right-handed amino acid in a chain and the chain can be destroyed. No Exceptions.
- When they synthesize amino acids in the laboratory, they almost always get a fifty-fifty split of right and left-handed amino acids.
- Just the process alone takes intense amounts of work, control, and *intelligence* to separate the two to use them in medicine.
- The AMOUNT of energy that they used comprises only .01% of the energy of the sun.
- The rays of the sun are known to break down amino acids very rapidly.
- The *type* of energy that they used was not made up of all of the wavelengths of the sun.

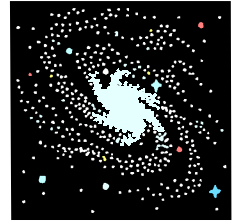
Quotes

"If logic tells you that life is a meaningless accident, don't give up on life. Give up on logic." Shira Milgrom

"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."
Richard Dawkins

"Martin Lingis is probably right in saying that 'more cases of loss of religious faith are to be traced to the theory of evolution...than to anything else.'" Huston

- Eleven percent of the sun's energy was left out.
- They had a special apparatus to collect the results, suck them into a tube and preserve them-immediately. This could not occur in nature.
- They assumed that there was no oxygen in the past. If there were no oxygen in the past, then the "present is the key to the past" is an invalid statement. There is evidence in the bubbles trapped in fossilized tree sap(amber) to show that not only was there oxygen in the past, but that there was much more than in the present. Even Isaac Asimov himself conceded that if oxygen were present in the past then the spontaneous generation of life would be *impossible!*



Did they get the beginnings of life?

Now let us examine the whole idea in a nutshell. If the experimenters had to use specially selected (by themselves) chemicals, which they themselves figured out using intelligence, if they used handmade glass parts requiring intelligence, controlled sparks over a long period of time, a special tool to take the results immediately away and preserve them, and still they only got something that was not even a mere shadow of a protein, or even something usable, can we safely assume that this can happen in nature without controls, laboratories, in the face of a killer sun?

In saying that the generation of life by chance does not require intelligence, are they not saying that they themselves have no intelligence?

Using all of this intelligence to prove that it does not require intelligence is not very intelligent!

Smith "Evolution & Evolutionism" *Christian Century* July 1982, p. 755

"The 'Days' of Creation were ordinary days in length. We must understand that these days were actual days (veros dies), contrary to the opinion of the holy fathers. Whenever we observe that the opinions of the fathers disagree with Scripture, we reverently bear with them and acknowledge them to be our elders. Nevertheless, we do not depart from the authority of Scripture for their sake."

MARTIN LUTHER

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DNA and RNA. But Pigliucci points out that this is a “chicken-and-egg problem.” He asks, “If the proteins appeared first, so that they could eventually catalyze the formation of nucleic acids, how was the information necessary to produce the proteins themselves coded? On the other hand, if nucleic acids came first, thereby embodying the information necessary to obtain proteins, how were the acids replicated and translated into proteins?” (p. 24)

Despite these problems, Pigliucci and others are satisfied to conclude that the answer “must lie in the proverbial middle” (p. 24, emphasis mine). This is because most scientists today are biased against a supernatural explanation. No matter how illogical the conclusion may be, it “must” be so, if the only other conclusion involves the supernatural. Pigliucci claims that the general path leading to the origination of life seems to have been something like this:

1. Primordial soup (simple organic compounds formed from atmospheric gases with the aid of various sources of energy)
2. Nucleo-proteins (similar to modern tRNAs)
3. Hypercycles (primitive and inefficient pathways, emergent properties)
4. Cellular hypercycles (more complex cycles, eventually enclosed in a primitive cell made of lipids)
5. Progenote (first self-replicating, metabolizing cell, possibly made of RNA and proteins, with DNA enter-

In History

May 1, 1776, Adam Weishaupt founded the “Illuminate;” a secret group with plans to rule the world by creating a *New World Order*.

1794, The first of many books by Jean Baptiste LaMarck was published. He was one of the first great promoters of the theory of evolution.

1795, James Hutton’s book was published suggesting the world is not just 6,000 years old. His major theme was the doctrine of *Uniformitarianism* or “*the present is the key to the past.*”

1798, Thomas Malthus book: *Essay on the Principles of Population* was published. This book had a great influence on Charles Darwin.

1830, Lyell’s first of three books on *Principles of Geology* was published. He enlarged on Hutton’s theme

ing the picture later on) (p. 26)

But this theory has its flaws. According to Pigliucci, the problem is that “each step is difficult to describe in detail from a theoretical standpoint, and so far...has proven remarkably elusive from an empirical perspective” (p. 26). He goes on to say, “It looks like we have several clues, but the overall puzzle is proving to be one of the most difficult for scientific analysis to solve” (p. 26).

The reason that the puzzle is so difficult to solve is that Dr. Pigliucci’s definition of science is flawed. He says that “the basic assumption of science is that the world can be explained entirely in physical terms, without recourse to divine entities” (p. 22) Yet this is not the definition of science, but of naturalism. Science is properly defined as, “knowledge,” and it would benefit the scientific community to accept this fact. Then, we would be able to understand that the truly scientific explanation for the origin of life is that “God created...every living creature that moveth...” (Genesis 1:21), and it will no longer be necessary for our ears to be “turned unto fables” (II Timothy 4:4).

Pigliucci, Massimo. “Where Do We Come From? A Humbling Look at the Biology of Life’s Origin.” *Skeptical Inquirer* Sept/Oct 1999:21-27

and later was a great influence on Charles Darwin.

1831, Charles Darwin, a young seminary graduate, set sail on a five year voyage to study the birds and insects of South America. While on the trip he read Lyell’s book and lost faith in the **Bible**.

1859, Charles Darwin’s book: *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the preservation of favored races in the struggle for life* was published.

1860, Thomas Huxley’s famous debate with Bishop Wilberforce.

1866, Ernst Haeckel popularized the idea that embryos of various animals pass through the stages of evolution as they develop. This has since been proven wrong but is still used to justify abortion.

(to be continued...)

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ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”

Hunting Parties

The June issue of the journal *Antiquity* reports the find of a Neanderthal stone spear tip stuck into the neck bone of an extinct donkey. More and more evidence has been rolling in, that the Neanderthals were a lot smarter than we thought. Only "true" humans were supposed to make spear points.

Recent finds have suggested that Neanderthals could talk, had religious burials, had bigger brains than we do, and now we find... made tools for hunting. When will they realize that the Neanderthals were an extinct tribe of real humans, who were struggling to cope with the harsh environment after the Flood. There's plenty of evidence for that, but it doesn't get a whole lot of attention from our evolutionist friends.

Sam Fox

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recorded in the New Testament, one of even greater personal significance to the Christian: “Ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ . . . written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart” (II Corinthians 3:3). No longer an external standard divinely engraved in stone by the finger of God, but an internal conviction inscribed in the heart by the Spirit of God! “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them” (Hebrews 10:16).

This remarkable writing of God's law in our hearts and minds has been accomplished because Christ came not “to destroy, but to fulfill” the law (Matthew 5:17) and “hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us” (Galatians 3:13). Now, with the law in our hearts, we have become epistles of God, “known and read of all men” (II Corinthians 3:2), and it is vital that the writing read true and clear through our lives.
Henry M Morris