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insight

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Q. There has been a lot of agitation in the wind lately to have creationism taught in public schools along with evolution. Tennessee has imposed such a requirement. California nearly did so, then backed away and settled for an emphasis that evolution is not yet a provable hypothesis. . . . Creation is a Bible doctrine. It's religion. I know that LIBERTY believes in creation, but shouldn't you be writing out against this new danger to the First Amendment? Religion should not be taught in public schools!

A. Suggesting an alternative hypothesis to evolution is not based entirely on a desire to teach religion in the public schools. It stems also from evidence that evolution is itself a "religion"—and one that is becoming increasingly untenable.

THIRTY

In 1952, Harold Urey, a Nobel Prize winner, then of the University of Chicago, suggested that the first living cell may have come into existence as the result of a lightning flash searing its way through a smoggy primeval atmosphere composed of hydrogen, ammonia, water vapor, and methane. Not that the lightning could have alchemized a living cell at a single stroke; but it might, Dr. Urey proposed, have combined the gases into a number of different amino acids, and these in turn might have combined into proteins, and these, in their turn, might have combined themselves into the first living cell.

In 1955, only three years later, one of Dr. Urey's students, Stanley Miller, mixed the four suggested ingredients in a bottle, discharged an electric spark through them for a week, and discovered on analyzing the result that he had indeed brought about the formation of a number of different amino acids. What excitement! Man was about to demonstrate how life began.

Or was he?

Suppose the earth *was* at some time in the long-distant past draped with the necessary four-component atmosphere. Suppose the lightning did play through it with continuous abandon. Suppose amino acids by the million did rain down day after day from this agitated air into the primitive ocean below it. What are the chances that the right amino acids would have linked up with each other in the right order to form a protein molecule?

The answer is fantastic!

Amino acids occur in nature today in an almost infinite variety; and living protein molecules as we know them are highly complex. Unless every needed amino acid is present in a protein molecule, and located within it—in its own rightful place—the molecule simply cannot function properly if at all.

In 1964 Malcolm Dixon and Edwin Webb, on page 667 of their standard reference work, *Enzymes,* pointed out to their fellow evolutionists that—depending on the laws of chance arrangement alone—in order to get the needed amino acids close enough to form a given protein molecule there would be required a total volume of amino-acid solution equal to 10^{50} times the volume of earth.

The term 10^{50} indicates a one with fifty zeros after it. This means that only if you had a solution saturated with amino acids, in a quantity sufficient to fill a mixing bowl equal in capacity to one hundred quadrillion nonillion times the volume of our entire planet, could you hope that somewhere the correct association of amino acids would take place to form a single protein molecule!

But we are dealing with the chance origin of a very simple protein. What are the odds in favor of the formation of a larger protein molecule such as hemoglobin?

S. W. Fox and J. F. Foster have worked this out for us in their *Introduction to Protein Chemistry,* page 279. They have shown that only after the necessary amino acids had come together to form random protein molecules by the process described above, and only after these protein molecules had been formed in such a quantity that they filled a volume 10^{512} times the volume of our entire known universe (that is, 1 with 512 zeros after it times the volume of our *entire known universe)* packed solid, protein molecule to protein molecule, could we reasonably expect that just one hemoglobin molecule might form itself by luck alone!

With each correct molecule occurring only once in an incomprehensible number of universes, just what really are the odds that enough of them would be found within the tiny space necessary for them to locate each other and link up to form a living cell?

The answer to all intents and purposes is none. None at all.

And yet the evolutionary hypothesis asks men of the twentieth century to believe that it did happen in the relatively shallow layer of moisture that wets a portion of our little earth's surface.

Here, surely, is "blind faith"!

Telling children that there is an alternative hypothesis involving a Master Intelligence is not so much religion as it is good sense.