



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

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THE RIGHT APPROACH

Picture a common scene in schools across the country. It is the first day of school and Biology 101 is in progress. As the teacher looks over the students, he has to set the ground rules. After going over the common class rules which students in this class haven't obeyed for years, the teacher explains his viewpoint and the viewpoint of the book. He begins:

I know that the subject matter in this class is controversial among a few of you who hold **religious** views. However in this class, we will stick to **scientific facts** rather than religious superstition. We have separation of church and state in this country, so religious arguments concerning creation do not belong in the classroom, and besides, science has settled this debate decades ago. If any of you wish to discuss creation, you will have to do that with your pastor. Science has proven beyond any reasonable doubt that evolution is a fact. If you don't believe that now, I'm sure you will by the end of the semester.

Of course, this isn't the case in all classes, but what do you do as a student when it does occur? Will you keep your mouth shut and try to blend into the woodwork or do you spout off something about what appears to you to be the instructor's obvious bias. One of these approaches may seem appropriate at the time, but maybe there is a better way.

If you keep silent during the course, the desired effect will be achieved by the instructor's intimidation. Other students who start out believing in creation may begin to question it in light of the "FACTS" of science because they never get to hear the "other" side. It is usually true, though, that if a good student will

challenge the dogma, many others will step out of the woodwork and also become firm in their convictions. Students often fall if forced to stand alone, but together, they can stand up to even the most adverse situations. Therefore, we can't recommend letting the instructor go unchallenged.

On the other hand, telling the instructor that he must have forgotten his brains in the primordial soup, isn't a very good approach either. II Timothy 2: 24-25 tells us to be kind, gentle, and not quarrelsome in our dealings with others. Consequently, we must cloak our comments in the love of Christ and bathe the situation in prayer.

Have you been in situations where your belief in creation has been challenged? If so, please write to us describing the incident and telling how you dealt with it (or wish you had!). We will try to publish some of your experiences in a future issue of **Think & Believe**.



From a Frog to a Ph.D.
See Notes and Quotes

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Is there evidence of design in nature? Consider the following examples taken from **Character Sketches, Vol. III** (1985, Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts).

► Just as a submarine expels air from its ballast tanks to dive, the loon controls its buoyancy by inflating or deflating tiny air sacs under its skin. It can sink rapidly and swim away to avoid even the quickest predator. (p. 49)

► The incubating female octopus is very particular about keeping her eggs clean. By rubbing her sucker-covered arms over the eggs, she removes any dirt particles or small marine creatures that might settle on them. Each sucker acts as a tiny vacuum cleaner. After vacuuming, the female octopus rinses off the eggs with a jet of water squirted through a funnel under her body. [Quite a chore, considering she may lay up to 50,000 eggs during a period of seven to ten days!] (p. 59)

► An eagle has eyes that are larger and six times sharper than those of a person. While a person may have difficulty seeing a quarter at thirty-five yards, an eagle can spot one at over 200 yards. Fish and rabbits can be seen from over a mile away. (p. 173)

► The eyes of the oyster catcher [bird] are located almost directly behind its straight bill. This gives the bird a unique advantage in being able to sight down its bill and aim directly at its intended target. Accuracy is extremely important for the oyster catcher as it often gets only one shot at an open shell. If it misses, the shell will close and the bird must continue to hunt. (p. 109)

► The feet of the oyster catcher are covered with tiny grippers called *pectinations* which serve much like those on the boots of rock climbers. These pectinations cover the entire foot, giving the oyster catcher a good grip in every direction. The toes are also slightly webbed at the base. This helps prevent the feet from sinking into wet sand. (p. 109)

■ This beautifully-illustrated book is loaded with little-known facts about the living world, combined with short biographical sketches from the Bible to illustrate character qualities and lessons for living. In the process, it also provides plentiful evidence of design in nature. This would make a fine addition to any library. Contact Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, Box One, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60521, for order information.

■ One of our readers sent us this poem. We enjoyed it and thought you would too.

Evolution

Once I was a tadpole, grubbing in the mire,
Till I became ambitious and started to aspire;
I rubbed my tail so vigorously against a sunken log,
It disappeared completely, and I found myself a
frog.

I struggled from my puddle and I jumped upon dry
land,
And the feeling that was in me was glorious and
grand;
It made me kind of frisky, so I hopped around a
tree,
Till I landed in the branches as happy as could be.

And there I spent some aeons evolving without fail,
Till I became a monkey and grew another tail;
But still I had ambitions as the aeons quickly sped,
So I descended from the tree and walked the earth
instead.

Till my tail got tired with trailing on the hard ground
every day;
And twice within my process that appendage passed
away.

Once again I evolved, and, believe it if you can,
I awoke one summer morning and found myself a
man!

Now you tadpoles in the mire, just think what you
may be,
If you'll only in your puddles start to climb the family
tree.

I am the Genus Homo, finished for all the world to
see;

For when I told my story, I was giv'n a Ph.D.

(By James H. Hunter, quoted in A Beka 8th Grade Literature Book, **Of Places**. Submitted by Pam Baca. Thanks, Pam!)

■ We appreciate receiving articles, poems, cartoons, or other items pertaining to creation/evolution. Evidences of design in nature are also helpful. Be sure to document the source completely (author, title, publication, date, and page). We would also consider publishing your original articles which fit our theme and format. Please include permission to edit to fit available space. We look forward to hearing from you.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

The Eyes Have It

So often we take sight for granted, but stop and consider what a miraculous thing it really is. Light enters through the adjustable pupil, passes through the adjustable lens, and stops at the retina. The retina is composed of special light-receiving cells called rods and cones.

The cones are specialized for color and detail. They come in three types with different sensitivities roughly corresponding to blue, green and red wavelengths. Intermediate colors are seen by stimulation of several cones at a time.

The more numerous rods are very sensitive to all wavelengths of light and are responsible for non-color vision. They contain special chemicals which change shape when light hits them. This change in shape sets up an electrochemical impulse which is transmitted down the nerves cells to the optic nerve and then to a special section of the brain called the visual cortex where it is interpreted as sight.

Actually, the process of sight is much more complex than outlined above. However, even this brief description serves to illustrate the point. How could such a complex, highly coordinated, purposeful system ever have developed by chance processes and evolution? As someone has asked, "How could blind chance form a seeing eye?"

In order for the eye to work, all the parts must be present and functioning at the same time. Even if these conditions were met, the eye would be a useless contrivance if there was no optic nerve, or if the brain was not specially equipped to interpret the message.

The eye is such powerful evidence of design that even Charles Darwin recognized the problem with attributing it to evolution. He wrote:

To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree. (The Origin of Species, 1859)

We agree. It is absurd! Ironically, in Darwin's time the fantastic chemical reactions were still unknown. Considering these, it becomes even more absurd to attribute the eye to natural selection. When it comes to evidence of creative design, the "eyes" have it!

Cain's Wife?

Skeptics and sincere Christians alike often wonder, "If Genesis is really true, where did Cain get his wife?" The answer is simple but raises other concerns. Cain must have married a sister or a niece. The skeptic then replies that there was no sister mentioned in the Bible; besides wouldn't that be incest?

First of all, besides Cain, Able and Seth, according to Genesis 5:4, Adam had "other sons and daughters." This implies at least four more children, two of each sex. Since Adam lived to be 930 years old, there would have been time for many more than that. In fact, according to Jewish tradition, Adam had 33 sons and 23 daughters (Josephus -- Complete Works, Antiquities III, 1, p. 27). If this is true, Cain would have had plenty of sisters from which to choose!

But isn't it wrong to marry a sister? After all there are laws against incest today. Actually, laws against incest were not instituted until the time of Moses. As usual, God's laws were for the good of His people, whether they understood them or not at the time.

Today, marriages between close relatives are much more likely to produce deformed children than other marriages. This is because we all carry "mutant" or defective genes in our cells. We each receive half of our genetic make-up from our father and half from our mother. Usually, the defective genes are recessive and will be effectively "covered" by the normal ones. In marriages of close relatives, though, there is an increased chance that a defective gene will be inherited from both the mother and the father. Then there would be no "normal" gene to override the effects of the defective gene, and abnormalities or deformities would be present in the children.

We assume Adam and Eve were created with a "perfect" genetic make-up. When they sinned, the effects of the curse took effect and mutations began to take place. Mutational rates were probably lower than today if, as many creationists believe, a water "canopy" surrounded the earth. (See Genesis 1:6,7 and **Think and Believe**, Vol. 2, No. 1.) However, even if mutational rates were similar to today, their children would have had near perfect genes, and it would be some time before mutations accumulated to the point that the "genetic load" would be detrimental.

Therefore, Cain could marry a sister or niece with no ill effects. As with other so-called "problems" with the Scripture, we find a reasonable explanation. God's Word stands true, despite the arguments of skeptics.

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Sep 30-Oct 1: Troy, MT**, Three Lakes Community Bible Church.
Contact Pastor Dave Nelson, 406-295-5783.
- Oct 4: Mt. Hood, OR**, Sunday Seminar, Assembly of God.
Contact Pastor Steve Trimble, 503-352-7269.
- Oct 5,6: Yacolt, WA**, Evergreen Christian Center.
Contact Pastor Bob Lindseph, 206-254-8882.
- Oct 11: McMinnville, OR**, Sunday Seminar, St. John's Lutheran
Contact Carol Hofelmann, 503-852-7961.
- Oct 12: Corvallis, OR**, School Assembly, Santiam High School.
Contact School, 503-745-5524, or Matt Strauser, 745-7679.
- Oct 12-13: Eugene, OR**, Grace Community Fellowship.
Contact Church, 503-683-9205 or Ed Heaton, 503-746-1697.
- October 18: Rangely, CO**, Student Basic Training Workshop.
Contact Tom Sabens, 303-675-8893. (Bridgman)
- Oct 23-24: Breckenridge, CO**, Colorado Christian Convention.
Booth and workshops. Contact Rick Rusaw, 303-776-2927.
- Oct 25: Breckenridge, CO**, Sunday Seminar, Agape Outpost.
Contact Church, 303-453-1247 or 453-2101.
- Nov 1: Newcastle, CO**, Sunday Seminar, Grand River Baptist.
Contact Church, 303-984-2349 or 984-3505.
- Nov 6-8: Steamboat Springs, CO**, Steamboat Christian Center.
Sponsored by Heritage Christian School. Contact Reed Slingerland, 303-879-9173.
- Nov 15: Craig, CO** Tentative. Contact us 303-245-5906.
- Nov 21-22: Vernal, UT**, Contact Stan Arias, 801-789-3113.

Winter Adventure at Camp Redcloud!!

Homeschoolers! You won't want to miss this exciting week of winter fun, fellowship and learning in Colorado's beautiful San Juan Mountains -- outdoor education with Camp Redcloud's experienced staff, full creation seminar with Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, singing, fellowship, skiing and more at a very affordable price. March 1-5, 1993, at Camp Redcloud Christian Challenge Center. Call us today!

Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

HOSTING A CREATION SEMINAR

Would you like to have a creation seminar in your area? Please contact us as far in advance as possible. We will send you a packet of information to help you put together a successful seminar. We have found that the following formats work well:

Sunday Seminar: Sunday School hour, sermon topic (if agreeable to pastor), late afternoon session, potluck supper, evening session with discussion time.

Two or Three Evening Seminar: Works well if you wish to involve people from more than one church. Usually includes 2 sessions per evening.

Week-end Retreat: Good for youth groups, Bible Study groups or families. Allows adequate teaching time plus fellowship.

Week Long Camp or Seminar: Time for more in-depth teaching plus plenty of time to digest information, relax, recreate, and fellowship with other Christians.

We also do **public school assemblies, university programs, VBS, summer "Creationfests," camps, home education conferences, "teen tracks" at conferences, hands-on science workshops for home educators, etc.** We are flexible to design a seminar to fit your needs. We are now scheduling for spring and summer of '93, so **call soon** to have a seminar in your church or community.

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