

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

July/August 2024; Vol. 42, No. 4



It's an Inconvenient Truth, Mufasa

by Mark Sonmor

In the Disney movie, **The Lion King**, there is a memorable scene where Simba shares a tender moment with his father, Mufasa. He relates that one day, after he dies, Simba will become king and reign in his place. He goes on to say, "When we die, our bodies become the grass. The antelope eat the grass, and so we are all connected in the great circle of life." For many in the audience, Mufasa's message offers hope – that all of nature is alive and that life and the universe can go on indefinitely.

While it is true that all organisms grow, die, and get "recycled," it's another thing to say that we're all connected. This is religious Monism – the belief that all of reality is ultimately one and indivisible – that all is God and God is all.

The problem is, the circle of life is temporary. Organic life ultimately depends on thermal energy from sources that are finite and burning out.

It's estimated that the earth's core will cool to a solid state

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in 91 billion years. The sun, however, will burn out in about 5 billion¹. Any belief system that depends on the physical universe to endlessly exist needs to deal with this inconvenient truth. Not

only is the energy in the universe being used up, its "infrastructure" is wearing down to the extent that life will no longer be sustainable.

No matter what is in the universe, even if it's an alien or multiverse, it's subject to decay. The magazine, **Astronomy**, outlined the stages the universe will undergo on the way to its end. "Everything," states Doug Adler, "– from creatures to stars to black holes – will eventually decay into nothingness...the universe will continue to cool and darken;...White dwarfs, brown dwarfs, and neutron stars are expected to eventually die through a process known as proton decay, when the subatomic particles they are made of simply fall apart."²


"No problem," some would say, "we'll just wait for another Big Bang." But is this possible? Can the universe be wound up again through cycles of rebirth? According to Dr. Carl Wieland of CMI, the laws of thermodynamics won't allow it. Each time a cycle takes place, the universe would progressively lose energy and the cycles would eventually stop.³

It seems clear then, to restart the universe, a divine Will would be required outside the system, possessing its own source of power. Such an entity seems less like "nature" and more like the transcendent God of the Bible.

Uniting oneself with the universe, seems to offer freedom from shame and judgment, as it clings to the tantalizing hope that together, we can effect positive

change and control our destiny. But, think of the pressure that comes with. How many times have you heard people say, "I'm praying to the Universe," or "don't speak that into the Universe! It might happen!" According to that philosophy, every word you speak could put negative or positive energy into the universe. By not doing your part to work on your attitude, care for the earth, or use the right shopping bags, etc. you are affecting the entire cosmos!

As a result, adherents find themselves back under slavery of guilt and shame. In addition, they're left with the burden of finding/creating meaning and life on their own – something only God can do. In Romans 6:16, the Apostle Paul expresses it this way, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves...you are that one's slave to obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"

Yes, the world is wearing out like a garment, Ps. 102:26-26, but there is hope. Jesus said life is in Him and He invites us into a relationship. That's why Jesus paid for our sins so we could relate without the pressure to perform. Energy alone cannot do that. Is it really such a risk to repent and relinquish control to God? The way the universe is going, you have nothing to lose. 

¹education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/core/

²Astronomy, The beginning to the End of the Universe: A cold, lonely, death. Feb., 2021.

³Carl Wieland, Understanding the Law of Decay, Creation.com/en/streaming/understanding-the-law-of-decay-dr-carl-wieland

What's the Matter with Matter?

By Mark Sonmor

In 1989, Bredo Morstol died in Norway but his remains were destined for a very non-traditional burial. His grandson, Trygve Bauge, brought him to Colorado where he hoped to open a cryogenics lab and preserve Bredo until science could bring him back to life. However, his visa ran out before his dream could be realized, forcing Trygve to leave his grandfather frozen in a backyard shed.

After years of caring individuals replenishing his dry ice, grandfather Bredo was finally frozen in liquid nitrogen and displayed at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. If you're there in March, you can enjoy the Frozen Dead Guy festival where you can see a parade, run in a coffin race, or take the plunge in a polar bear swim.

While we are alive, our bodies repair molecules like DNA, but after death, it normally breaks down in a couple hundred years. Even under cryogenic conditions like Grandpa Bredo's, however, it's estimated that after 6.8 million years (at best) all the base pairs of DNA will still break down.¹

While people seek to buy immortality, municipalities are spending large amounts to keep their bridges and buildings from falling apart. Museums wage a relentless war against heat, moisture and UV light to preserve their relics.

Meanwhile, the county landfill depends on this same breakdown to return garbage into useable soil. (See chart) It's helpful to understand that biodegradation involves the help of microorganisms while decomposition

can be the result of a variety of chemical processes. For example, a plastic grocery bag may never biodegrade, but, when exposed to UV light, it can decompose into microplastics in 10 to 20 years. Sandstone and limestone are broken down by an acid formed when carbon dioxide mixes with rainwater.

A general factor in decomposition is heat. At higher temperature, atoms and molecules move faster,

chemical reactions occur more quickly, and the rate of decay increases.

In a process called oxidation, elements can lose electrons, and decompose through a change in their molecular structure. When iron, for example, comes into contact with water and air, it quickly gives up electrons to the oxygen and changes to iron oxide, or rust. If left to itself, this process will continue until the iron is lost and spread throughout the environment. Technically, the iron is still in the universe, but it's no longer available in a usable form.

This is one example of the 1st Law of Thermodynamics, which says **“matter and energy can neither be created or destroyed, only changed from one form to another.”**² While agents of decay differ, substances follow the path of least resistance seeking stability or rest. This is consistent with the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics which states that **“every system left to itself will tend toward a condition**

of minimum potential energy and maximum entropy.”³

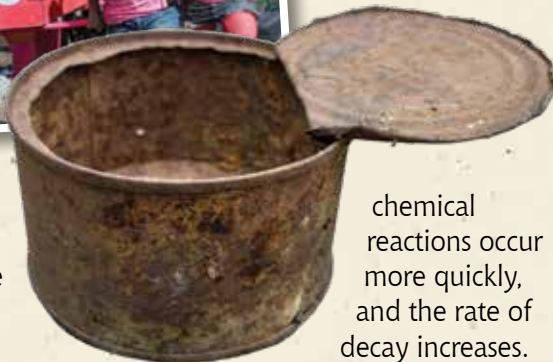
Entropy is the measure of the disorder, diffusion, or “spread-out-ness” of a substance or system in relation to its original state. When iron, in the form of rust, dissipated into the environment it reached a high state of entropy.

What if, however, the rust molecules gathered back together and formed a rusty can? That can't happen! Yet, some evolutionists point to the formation of ice, tornadoes, and crystals as examples of self-organization proving that molecules-to-man evolution is possible.

In the case of ice formation, yes, the structure is more organized, but its energy has decreased. This loss of heat to the surrounding environment results in a net increase of entropy that outweighs the structural order gained by freezing ice.⁴

Crystals are formed by directional forces in atoms because this state has the lowest energy. However, like tornadoes, crystals lack information – a requirement to produce a living cell. For matter to go from non-life to life, energy alone is not enough.⁵

If energy and matter to go from a state of usefulness and potential to maximum dissipation, who/what wound them up in the first place? The laws of thermodynamics provide strong evidence for the existence of God and remain a continual reminder of the effects of sin and death as related in the Bible. **AOI**



How long does it take to biodegrade?

- Rusty toy car: 5-7 years
 - Paper: 2-5 months
 - Tires: 2,000 years
 - Nylon fabric: 30-40 years
 - Tin can: 50-100 years
 - Glass bottle: 1 million years
 - Plastic bag: 500 years+
- Source: Sciencelearn.org.nz

¹ Spike Psarris, Thermodynamics Confirms creation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c4I4dt0Rbl>

^{2,3} Chemistry - Precision & Design 2nd ed., Abeka Books, pg.27

⁴ Brian Miller, Ph.D. from Episode 0/13: Reasons // A Course on Abiogenesis by Dr. James Tour, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71dqAFUb-v0&list=PLILWudw_84t2THBvZfYulA0qxxwrlBDr6&index=2.

⁵ Johnathan Sarfati, Creation.com/the-second-law-of-thermodynamics-answers-to-critics

Director's Column: 40th Anniversary

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting



We've had a lot of good comments about the events at AOI's 40th anniversary celebration. For those who could not attend, an opportunity to view the replays has been made available if you desire. The link for those is www.DiscoverCreation.org/40th-videos. When you go to the site, you will find a list under each morning or evening with a specific section title. Click on the section to go directly to Eugene the lion puppet, astronomy or dinosaur programs, why creation

is important, and various testimonies by names, worship time with Tim Nutting, or to hear and be encouraged by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting's main session: **On the Road Again, and Again, and Again**. This gives a lot of amazing stories of God's faithfulness, timing, provision, and direction.

We hope you will be blessed to sit back and celebrate with us through these replays of the live sessions! We are grateful for the open doors God provided and the faithfulness of AOI staff to go through those doors. We can plant seeds, but HE brings the increase. **AOI**

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