



## **Designer Life**

The more we learn the more we find the old beliefs may be right. Life forms are so intricate and interdependent that the concept of them coming into existence by chance seems more and more bizarre. Modern technology is advancing fast. The ability for us to see into the structure of cells has allowed us to see, not a simple mechanism at the core of life as expected by Darwin but irreducible complexity on a scale that makes modern supercomputers seem like Lego blocks. And even looking out instead of in we find space research shows, not a universe full of possible life forms, but a universe so dangerous that only a unique combination of a whole range of factors will allow any complex life to exist. The only likely place that fits the bill for complex life in the universe is our planet earth.

Of course such a state of affairs is causing serious discussions (arguments) because much of our current way of looking at life is based on the supposition that we, and all life, happened by chance, and that the same chances that allowed life here would allow life elsewhere, if not in our solar system then certainly in our galaxy and throughout the universe. The evidence now seems to be saying no, we, and all life, is carefully designed. Not only that but, the planet we live on has been designed to allow us to live on it.

If it is correct, that design permeates everything, then the conclusion has to be that somewhere there is a Designer. Obviously if everything has been designed then there must be a designer.

But is this true? What are the sorts of things being discovered that indicate design?

One classic case is the photon motor. To look at it is to recognise the basic structure of an electric motor with stator, rotor, bearings

and so on. Unlike an electric motor a photon motor is, as far as can be found, 100% efficient. (A photon is an elementary particle of light. Light here though is not just visible light that you and I can see but goes beyond into X Rays, Gamma Rays and even into microwaves, radio waves, in fact anything electromagnetic including the electricity in your home.) The beauty of a photon is that in the presence of matter it can convert itself into energy. Hence the matter around the base of the stator absorbs the photon and the electromagnetic field created spins the rotor.

Now this incredible motor is used in, of all things, an e-coli bacteria, and e-coli are bacteria that live in our stomachs to help us digest food.

So what am I saying?

That there is, inside our stomachs, bacteria that are able to move because they have complex motors to drive their tails.

And the point of this?

Those motors, as with our far, far bigger human built electric motors, will not work if one single part is missing. We have something here that has irreducible complexity. In other words we have here a machine of various parts that must all be together at the right size in the right order at the right time for the motor to work; a complex mechanism that cannot be reduced by one single part without making it useless. This is what irreducible complexity means.

So what?

Well how did the e-coli get its photon motor?

The common theory is that it evolved. How?

Evolution is based on a mutation occurring in a critter that makes it superior to its contemporaries. It can then survive better and with ongoing further mutations in future generations eventually become

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a new type of critter. But we already know that the photon motor is made up of a variety of specific parts. None of those parts on their own or even with another couple of parts will make a working motor. In other words none of the parts, not even two or three of them together give the host critter one iota of an advantage. All the parts have to be there. It cannot evolve; it has to be there complete to be an advantage.

It's all rather like a mouse trap. A mouse trap has six parts, the baseplate, the spring, the bar, the bait holder, the trigger, and the release arm. It would not work if one of those were missing. But the key point is that if one part were missing it would not catch fewer mice, it would not catch any at all!

Having part of a mouse trap then is not an evolutionary advantage. A mousetrap cannot evolve by gradually producing beneficial changes, it is all or nothing. It has to be designed and carefully made to actually work.

And that's the point. The idea of a working electric motor suddenly just being in the cupboard is preposterous. There has to be a designer, one who knew what the power supply voltage would be, the sort of use the motor would be put to, what speed it would need to turn at and so on.

The photon motor in an e-coli bacteria is exactly the right size and power. It turns at over 100,000 revs per minute (rpm) and can reverse to 100,000 rpm in the other direction in a quarter of a turn. And just to complete the picture of how complex this all is the motor is water cooled and the tail carries a sensing device ..... Irreducible Complexity!

Earlier I mentioned that the universe is a very hostile place for life as we know it. A whole lot of factors must be in place for any life, but especially complex life to exist, and our universe seems totally

alien in its ability to supply even just a few of those factors in any one place at any one time.

For example it is generally, though not completely agreed that complex life can only exist where there is liquid water. Our world is within a narrow band where liquid water can exist. If it were much further from the sun then all water would freeze and life would fail, a bit closer and all the water would be evaporated and again all life would die.

Plants are an absolute necessity not only as food but for the part they play in regulating the earth's temperature and the balancing of our atmosphere gases. Plants need light, not just any electromagnetic light but a specific spectrum. The only stars to produce this in the correct balance are G2 Main Sequence Dwarf stars, our sun is one of this special type of star.

But not all the sun sends our way is good for us. The radiation from the sun would kill life in a few minutes but our planet has a spinning iron core that creates a magnetic shield to deflect the most dangerous types of radiation. Not many planets have this.

And then we have a moon so situated as to create tidal movements on earth, not enough to leave large areas dry and then swamped, but enough to create a self cleaning and regeneration process.

Our atmosphere allows sunlight through, the surfaces of many other planets never see sunlight or starlight. The atmosphere on Jupiter or Venus would kill us in seconds but here we have a balanced range of gases necessary for life as we know it.

There are lots more requirements best explained in the book *Privileged Planet* but one of the arguments used against these new discoveries is that life on other planets could be very different to that on ours.

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That is true, but it is also true that the rules of science that control our world control the universe. There is no ability of a hunk of iron or a piece of silicon suddenly becoming an animate object.

What is life?

Zinc, iron, helium are not life forms nor can they be. No elements is, or can be a life form, they are just things; atoms with a specific number of protons, neutrons and electrons. If we think of an atom as a very, very small sun with planets spinning around it then each sun will be made up of protons and neutrons and the planet would be called an electron.

For example hydrogen has one proton, one neutron and one electron. Hydrogen is just the name we give to atoms of that sort. Helium has two of each, and so it goes on. Oxygen has eight protons, eight neutrons and eight electrons. But all of these are elements, the simplest structures of every physical thing. If two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom join together then we have one, not atom, but molecule of water. Molecules are where two or more atoms join together. Some molecules are like strings of connected atoms, others are clumps, while others can be in rings.

The thing is they just are. They don't do anything except grow older and eventually break apart and break down.

Certainly life forms have these elements in them. For example our bones are calcium and over 70% of our bodies is water, a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen. But that doesn't make calcium, hydrogen and oxygen a life form.

The human body contains oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur and 52 other elements including gold, silver, uranium, tin, zinc, arsenic, and chlorine.

Although that is what a human body is made of no one would expect to gather all those elements in one place and produce a live human being.

Life is far more complex than that. It only uses the physical body to live in, but the body itself isn't life. When one gets past the age of say 45 or older you the person still think and feel as an eighteen year old, albeit with years of experience, but the body doesn't operate as an eighteen year old. Try playing soccer or basketball with an eighteen year old and you'll see just how much you have slowed down.

And living things reproduce themselves, molecules, even atoms don't do that, they just follow the laws of Thermodynamics and break down according to their half lives.

It might be nice to think of other complex forms of life out there in the vast empty space that is the universe but the reality is that there is no sign of any such physical life out there; spiritual yes, physical no.

We are alone; unless there is a God.

And it is the pervading interconnectedness, the complexities of a database operated replenishing system in every cell, and our location in the universe that points to a designer; God Himself.