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### THE MATERIALIST AND THE END OF THE WORLD

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## OZYMANDIAS I met a travelor from an antique land who said: Two wast and Trumbless ligh of stone Stand in the disent. Thear Kem, on the sand, Half sunk, a shattered visage lise, whose frown, and winkled lip, and snew ? cold command. Tell that its sulpton well Hose passions read which yet survive, stamped on these lightess things, The Rand that mocked them

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#### IS

# EVOLUTION SCIENTIFIC?

By John Christensen, chairman, Division of Natural Science, Southern Misstonary College,

Some of its most fundamental assumptions are diametrically opposed to the very principles of the physical sciences and of chance.

HAT IS a fine watch you have there."

"Yes, I had all the parts, and I put them in a box and shook the box for two hours. When I opened the box, the watch was all together and running, keeping good time."

"Now wait a minute. You don't expect me to believe that, do you?"

"Perhaps it was more than two hours that I shook the box." [ [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

"Impossible!"

"Well, yes, but you believe that the solar system and life on this earth developed by itself, don't you?"

"Yes, but that is different."

Is it different? Let us examine the scientific principles involved and see. Everyone knows that a watch will not go together without a plan and without the use of energy intelligently directed, even though all the parts are available and have been made to fit perfectly. What about the universe?

Take the revolutions of the earth

around the sun. If the sun were a little heavier and the earth were traveling no faster than it is now, the earth would be pulled into an elliptical orbit which would bring it so close to the sun that all life on the earth would be extinguished.

?" Essentially the same result would ensue if the velocity of the earth were decreased. As it is now, the earth is traveling at velocity of about 18.5 miles a second. Were it to slow down on the one hand, to 14 miles a second, we would be pulled in so close to the sun as to annihilate life. On the other hand, if the velocity were increased to 26 miles a second, the earth would go off into space away from the sun and never return. Strange that our earth should have developed just the right velocity to compensate for the sun's pull on the earth's mass and yet keep us at the right

distance that life might continue. Of course that might have been accidental.

However, almost the same thing is true with respect to the moon which is circling the earth. It maintains an orbit which keeps it the proper distance from the earth. Strange that two accidental happenings should be that closely related! Consider the other eight planets circling the sun, each traveling at a speed commensurate with its mass and its distance from the sun. There is a total of thirty-one moons. Jupiter alone has twelve moons. None of them have ever been known to collide. Now a series of "accidents" begins to look like a master plan, but a master plan would involve a planner. Admission of a master plan would lead to admitting that there was a Supreme Being. That might offend man's dignity. After all, we must be scientific.



One of the important concepts of physical chemistry is that of entropy. Entropy is the degree of disorder in a system. One of the principles of thermodynamics states that the entropy of a system tends to increase. To use a simple example, if you have a poem set up in type and you shake the type, you get a more disorganized arrangement, not a more sublime poem. In order to get less entropy and a more orderly arrangement, it is necessary to use a force intelligently directed according to some plan.

If the solar system is disturbed, it will not make a better arrangement, but a more disorderly one. But I hear someone say, "Time has been limitless, and anything can happen if time is not a factor." Try shaking a board with a font of type until the type spells out all of Longfellow's poem "Hiawatha." Time is no factor. Just keep on trying. But entropy increases with time. Spelling out the poem would be a decrease in entropy and contrary to scientific principles. This poem is simple compared with the complexities of nature or of the human body. If it can't happen with the poem, how can it happen that the universe is so well organized? What happened to all the unworkable combinations? What about the complex relationships in our bodies?

We are told in the theory of evolution that there were accidental changes in inherited traits, mutations, and that if these were desirable traits, the individual had a greater chance of survival. If they were undesirable, he had a lesser chance of survival. In this way characteristics were supposed to have been developed to fit particular needs. These were then supposed to be capable of being passed on to the offspring.

Take the case of clotting of the blood. If a person's blood does not clot, he has very little chance of survival. Suppose that at some time or other man (or his predecessor if we accept evolution) had no blood-clotting mechanism. A minor wound would cause him to bleed to death. However, the blood-clotting mechanism is a very complex one, and if one step is missing, the blood will not clot.

The process begins when the blood is exposed to air and the platelets deteriorate, allowing a substance which acts as a trigger to react with thromboplastin and Ac-globulin (a protein) and calcium ions to form thrombin. The prothrombin was previously synthesized by the liver, and for this vitamin K is necessary. The thrombin now causes fibrinogen, another soluble protein in the blood and which was also produced by the liver, to form the clot. How did the liver know that it was supposed to produce both prothrombin and fibrinogen to prepare for an emergency it had never before experienced? How did the platelets get to contain the right substance to start the reaction?

Suppose some platelets should rupture in the arteries or veins and start the clotting reaction, then what? Provision has been made for this by means of an inhibitor for every step in the reaction. Finally, there is an inactive enzyme which becomes activated and begins to dissolve the clot. Leaving the clot in an artery, for instance, could cause death. How did all this system of counterbalances come about? A human being could hardly develop this complicated system, because if it were not present, the individual would bleed to death if slightly wounded, and if he were not wounded, this series of reactions would not be necessary. No individual could anticipate the emergency that would end his life and be able to devise such an elaborate means of counteracting it.

Consider another fact in nature, With

rare exceptions, when a liquid solidifies, it contracts. One of these few rare exceptions is a very common case, that of water. If water were to contract as other liquids when it solidifies, the ice formed would sink to the bottom, and our lakes and ponds would freeze from the bottom up. This would kill life in the water. In the spring the water would thaw only on the surface, and solid ice would remain on the bottom all summer. In contrast to this, water contracts until it reaches a temperature of 4 degrees above the freezing point, and then it begins to expand -a remarkable phenomenon as compared with other substances, but one which allows marine life to exist. Is this an accident?

Examples of this kind can be multiplied readily. They all point toward a well-integrated plan in nature, one which from the standpoint of mathematical odds would be extremely improbable or definitely impossible from chance. The relationships of nature, for example the chemistry of one's body. are so intricate and well balanced as to make a fine watch look very crude by contrast. Yet some would have us reject a designer or at least deny him the privilege of creating what he designed. Surely "the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:25.)

Evolution is not as scientific as it appears to be. Some of its most fundamental assumptions are diametrically opposed to the very principles of the physical sciences and of chance. Then why has evolution received such universal acceptance? It is because man has rejected the idea of a Creator and has insisted on finding some other explanation which does not involve a Supreme Being and an admission of a superior intelligence.