

Evolution 101

Lesson 6

Does Time and Chance Have a Chance?

The First Law of Thermo-dynamics teaches us that only matter and energy can be the cause of anything. Believers in macroevolution agree that random matter in motion is its basic causal source. Here are the words of George Wald written in **The Physics and Chemistry of Life**:

“The important point is that since the origin of life belongs in the category of at-least-once phenomena, time is on its side. However improbable we regard this event, ... given enough time it will certainly happen at least once.

“Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: time itself performs miracles.”

It will be useful to see if chance can select any useful arrangement of atoms in motion regardless of the time available. Suppose we place ten similar coins in a container and number them one through ten. Can chance count to ten? Shake the container thoroughly. If we draw out one without looking, we naturally expect that we have a one-out-of-ten chance of getting the number one coin first. The probability is 1/10.

Replace the coin. Continue to draw and replace until you select number one. Return it to the container and draw for coin number 2. Your chance is 1/10, one out of ten. Now, what is the probability of selecting coins number one and two in succession? 1/20? No. The probability is 1/100, one out a hundred on an average.

The number of chances per step is multiplied, not added. In this case when we multiply $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$ the answer is 10,000,000,000. There is one chance in ten billion of getting all ten in a row. There is not enough time in many, many lifetimes to complete such an experiment. If a person could draw and record one coin every five seconds day and night, it would take over 1,500 years to achieve one success. Chance does not have a chance to produce an ordered result. On the other hand, an eight-year-old student could produce the outcome in a minute or less. The Law of Probability says chance cannot produce ordered results.

“It is truth very certain that, when it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.” --René Descartes

What is the probability of spelling “evolution” by chance? Obtaining the nine letters in order, each having a probability of 1/26, you have a probability of 1 in 5,429,503,678,976. Draw-ing as before, it would take 800,000 years to spell “evolution” one time. For a detailed discussion of probability, refer to **Evolution: Possible or Impos-sible** by James F. Coppedge.

Assume there is an ocean full of amino acids, the building blocks for proteins that form the stuff of living creatures. What is the probability of mindless matter producing a meaningful protein? Think of amino acids as ABCs and proteins as words. There are usually 20 amino acids that can build any one of thousands of proteins. The smallest useful protein needs a chain of 400 amino acids at the very least. The largest protein molecule ranges up to 50,000 amino acids.

There is another complication. Amino acids come in two species that are chemically identical but are physically mirror images of each other like a person’s left and right hands. Living creatures are composed of only “left-handed” amino acids. This means the amino acid alphabet is 40 letters long instead of 20. The probability of finding one meaningful protein of 400 amino acids by chance over time is essentially zero. A person cannot imagine the size of the number 40 multiplied by itself 400 times! The number is so large that mathematicians use shorthand to express it: 1 in 10^{520} . That is 1 followed by 520 zeroes! That number is billions of times larger than the number of atoms in the whole universe. And it is only the beginning. It takes thousands of proteins to form a living creature. And there is more.

What Makes A Protein Meaningful?

Not just any old protein will work. Specific proteins are required for specific jobs in a living organism. Both *evolution* and its reverse, *noitulove*, are equally probable on the basis of chance. Why is one meaningful and other is nonsense? Let this paragrah illustrate the point. Each word, analogous to a protein, is composed of ABCs,

analogous to amino acids.

Where did the meaning of these words come from? They came from a language convention designed by humans to enable one human being to communicate with another. The ink and paper are physical. The message is spiritual and “rides” on these words. They came from a transcending author, the writer of this essay. Similarly, radio waves do not create the music. They are physical. The music has been created by a transcending composer and “rides” on the waves.

Now, where does a specific protein get its meaning? There must be a *“language of life”* convention created by an intelligent being to explain it. This language of life convention is inferred by the DNA molecule in the cell and is the master plan or blueprint that gives direction to the thousands of proteins in a living cell on how to perform their unique tasks. The DNA molecule is physical, like this ink and paper, and the spiritual *“language of life”* rides on it. The author is meta-physical and transcends the physical. Christians believe this author is the God of the Bible.

The DNA molecule is even more complicated than proteins and its probability of origin by dancing atoms is far less than that of proteins. Furthermore, the arrival of proteins and the DNA molecule had to come into existence at the same time. Each is essential for the function of the other

Think about it! The words on this page of ink and paper did not give the meaning to the words. The meaning of these words came from a transcending author and “rides” on the ink and paper. Likewise, the DNA molecule is physical like this ink and paper and is not alive. Its meaning, or aliveness, is spiritual and “rides” on it. Like the author of these words, the meaning of DNA must come from a transcending intelligence. God is a rational meta-physical cause of it all.

Time and Chance are dead ends for the evolutionists. www.GooToYou.com

www.FineTunedUniverse.com