

An 8-Legged Marvel - 4

Last time we saw what some students of spider science have said about the water spider, referring to its “engineering genius” and being “incredibly unique” and “miraculous”. Only one who consistently shows lack of good sense or judgement could possibly believe that complex design can occur without an intelligent designer. Those who have earned professional status as biologists cannot be fools. Yet there are some people who claim that the “engineering genius” seen in water spiders is not the result of special creation, but of a highly improbable series of errors in genetic replication. Such a conclusion stands in defiance of the very art of reason which characterizes the physical and biological sciences. When general belief in special creation began to falter, there grew an embarrassing vacuum in the story of life on earth. Every effect has a cause, and the once accepted Cause of life on earth was rejected by the wise of this world. Those few who faced that vacuum squarely called it atheism. And many who accepted the theory of evolution early on appear to have ignored the vacuum, accepting the mindless role of random mutations and natural selection. But in the last hundred years there has been an effort to reconcile religion with evolutionary theory by introducing the concept of *emergence*: sodium and chlorine are combined to produce a salt whose properties cannot be foreseen in the original components. Out of this was proclaimed emergent evolution as a scientific theory - that natural combining of simple chemicals can produce more complex molecules with new and unexpected properties. From this it is urged that an operating principle of the natural world is the process of ongoing creativity that tends to produce increasingly complex forms. This is said to have begun after the big bang when there were only hydrogen atoms and then advanced in complexity all the way to the appearance of man the intelligent out of the beasts instinctual.

It is further urged that mankind owes his reverence and awe to the physical universe and nature, and not to any personality called God. It steadfastly denies the existence of the supernatural - beings (God, angels), power (in creation, sustaining) or messages (in the Bible). It sees the existence of the universe as the only true reality. This mind-set of reverence and gratitude for Nature can be seen in the environmental movement and support of sustainable development. That reverence brings with it a moral code in which the sin is having too large of an ecological footprint, and obedience to Nature’s motherhood is in sustainable living. It is a moral code aimed at preserving earth’s viability and the survival of mankind, and leaves no room for a Creator who controls conditions on his own earth and has His own rules for the people he placed there to follow.

To summarize, impersonal Nature is seen to be so constituted that it automatically was able to produce from lifeless chemicals a simple form of life which has gradually increased its complexity up to man. That leaves man with no accountability to God, because this view of nature leaves no room for a supernatural Creator. It can help to see why men have rejected religion in general and Christianity in particular. Among the world religions the Judaeo-Christian form has been admitted by many as superior in its teaching and moral code, first in the Law of Moses in the Old Testament and then in the teaching of Jesus in the New Testament. But critics have attacked their stories which include supernatural events, claiming the Bible to be a mixture of folk-lore and myth. While admitting that Jesus’ teachings brought a new standard of moral goodness, they point to the centuries of persecution and bloodshed perpetrated in the name of Christ, and the dissoluteness committed by those who claim to be his agents

But to cast off belief in God for such reasons is about as reasonable as crossing a busy highway on foot while blindfolded. Depending only on what you hear, and not looking for yourself can be fatal. There is powerful and incontrovertible evidence for the reality of the God who is portrayed in Moses and also by Jesus, who declared, *“Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life” - John 5:24.*