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AN ESSAY ON D. N. A

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FOREWORD

This small excursion into the province of what is to me the relatively unknown, has been a most interesting experience. I do not expect my readers to agree with all points raised, but I hope they will nevertheless find it stimulating.

Actually the process has raised more questions than answers, but from my perspective as a Christian with an enquiring mind, there have been many points which have proved to be very satisfying indeed.

I would like to express thanks to my relatives for their assistance in making the story logical and more readable. My thanks also for their work in typing and printing.

I. M. Bryce

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LANGUAGE

1

What is the most essential element of our status as human beings? This question may be classed by many as unanswerable and not worthy of serious thought. It is easily discarded with several others such as "What is the meaning of life' ? ", and "Is there a divine being?" and, "What constitutes Good and Evil ?".

To return to the first question, "What is the most essential element of our humanity?" This subject is quite intriguing. There are many characteristics which we have as 'persons' which make us distinct from all the other forms of life. We plant crops for food, we drive around in motorcars, we build skyscrapers, and the most fascinating, we use language to communicate.

The Dictionary

From the position of a cryptic crossword enthusiast, I find language to be incredibly diverse and interesting. I reluctantly, but frequently, consult the dictionary that happens to be a Collins, printed in 1983 and containing 162,000 words. On occasions I look up a new word and become fascinated by the variety of meanings that a single word may possess. It is interesting to speculate on the possible number of words that would exist if all the various meanings had separate words maybe 300,000.

It has been estimated that an average person has a full use vocabulary of about 12,000 words and a recognition vocabulary of up to 35,000 words.

To give an illustration of the diversity of meanings, here is a list from the dictionary of various uses of the word 'bar'

- 1 harbour tidal bar
- 2 horizontal bar
- 3 public bar (tavern)
- 4 coffee bar
- 5 music bar
- 6 glazing bar (on a window)
- 7 a tow bar
- 8 crow bar (tool)
- 9 tommy bar
- 10 pinch bar
- 11 to dislike (I won't have a bar of it)
- 12 a rank - bar on an army uniform
- 13 an additional equivalent award (VC and bar)
- 14 a Unit of air pressure used in barometers
- 15 a bar of soap, or chocolate
- 16 a black painted line
- 17 a bar on a gate
- 18 a bar in a court where the accused stands
- 19 The Bar - the profession of Barristers
- 20 a bar put on someone to prevent their attendance
- 21 in lacemaking and needlework,
a bar is another name for a bride
- 22 a horse's mouthpiece - part of the bridle
- 23 the space between the horse's mouth where the bar fits
- 24 in Heraldry, a bar is an ordinary consisting of a horizontal line across a shield, typically narrower than a fesse, and usually appearing in twos and threes

In essence therefore the word bar is a language code word which requires the reader to be fully aware of the related sentence and the context in which the word occurs'

However, the thing that surprised me greatly is the fact that the word being looked for may not be in the dictionary at all.

An example is the word 'barcode', and the implication is that it is a new word which was not in use in 1983.

An even stronger observation is that the back cover of the dictionary has its own barcode printed on it !

Morse

Everyone today has a clear idea of what the word 'code' means and probably an early example which comes to mind is the MORSE code. This was an alphabet which was devised for the telegraphic transmission of messages in the days before telephones. Each of the 26 letters of the alphabet and the 10 digits were converted into an arrangement of the 2 symbol types - dots and dashes.

Any message could be transmitted by translating it into the dot and dash language and then keying it into the system. The receiver of the message then re-translated the coded signal back in to English. The dictionary suggest that a code is used to communicate secret information, and this has been the case for centuries. The implication is that the code is a language which can only be understood by a strictly limited 'audience'.

Wartime Codes

During the 2nd World War, the Americans used a Red Indian language, which was only understood by a very small group of the Indians, as a code for transmitting military information across the Pacific. It consisted of sounds which bore no resemblance to conventional languages at all. Neither the Japanese nor anyone *else* had any idea what was being communicated and some of the Red Indians were stationed to both transmit and receive the 'coded' radio messages. The language was common to the tribe but totally unknown to anyone else. In reality every language is a code which has to be learned by those who are going to use it.

English

Our language, English can only be understood by those who have learned the English code, and whose 'computer brains' can call on the memorised interpretation of the various sets of symbols.. There are only 26 symbols in our language but as noted, the dictionary has 162,000 arrangements of them into words. The total number of possibilities though is incredibly large

A language is a very potent though inanimate medium.

Hitler used his language power to control a nation and lead them into the world's most ghastly conflict. Churchill's use of language inspired the British nation to dig their heels in and refuse to be overcome by Hitler's aggression. Language is our most powerful tool and is used to trigger people's emotions and actions. In fact all concepts, designs, laws and instructions are passed from person to person through this fascinating, non living entity.

Dead Language

People are alive and knowledgeable and extremely complex but the language they use, although of paramount importance, is relatively simple, and totally lifeless. It must be admitted though that this statement may be challenged, in the way that languages in use are called "living languages". This is really only a measure of relativity as they are being compared to "dead languages," or those whose use has ceased. Even this comparison may not be entirely valid either as a dead language, like Latin, may still inspire considerable emotional response and could almost be classed as "living". At this point we should be reminded that although the language itself is lifeless, its ability to enable communication between living or even dead and living people gives it a real sense of life.

THE BARCODE

2

These days a bar code is found on most manufactured items for sale, in places such as supermarkets. The code is a specialised language made up of an arrangement of thick and thin black printed bars, with varying spacings.

We know this contains some form of information.

All the merchandise items on the shop shelves have a barcode printed on their packets and each one is distinct. However while the item stays on the shelf, the barcode is not doing anything. The manufactured item has been through a multitude of processes until it is finished and ready for its most critical experience, the sale.

At this point in the article's existence, the reputation, practicality, and usage possibilities are all there for everyone to assess, and the barcode is totally unobserved, lifeless and seemingly irrelevant. It remains that way indefinitely until someone takes the item off the shelf, and down the aisle to the checkout.

The Checkout

The instant the barcode is read by the checkout scanner everything springs into life and action. The barcode remains lifeless, but the computer which has identified the coded information is immediately activated into a flurry of pre-arranged functions. The item's country of origin is identified along with the name of the manufacturer. The article is named in detail and the price is allocated

Numerous other information points can be attended to such as the adjustment of stock lists, comparisons with other products, updating of ordering lists for future business operations, comparison of sales frequency, attention to profit margins, etc. All this depends on the computer's pre-programming and the work is unseen except for the

information which is displayed on the operator's screen and printed on the sales docket.

The checkout operator does not actually know what goes on behind the scenes as it is all electronic and invisible, but essentially the information produced could be sent all round the country in a flash by the unseen 'personality'.

The Purchase

When, and only when, the scanning and subsequent operations have been completed, payment can be handed over and the product is on its way to being used. This can of course be most satisfying and enjoyable but it can only come about after the scanning of the innocent and lifeless barcode.

The code itself has no knowledge of the information concealed within it nor of the effect of the scanning.

At this point it is necessary to change the subject a little and investigate another somewhat related topic.

D.N.A.

3

Most of us know these days that our body cells all contain a 'substance' known as D.N.A. This is a short name for an extremely complex chemical molecule known as deoxyribonucleic acid, and it could be said that human D.N.A. is the most fascinating chemical on the face of the earth. All living things have as their basic design formula a type of D.N.A.

While a molecule of water contains only three atoms, a D.N.A. molecule can contain three billion atoms but is still almost invisibly small. These atoms are in two complex chains connected together in the form of a coiled up helix, which, if it could be unwound would possibly be about one metre long. The helix has a fundamental structure based on four chemical bases, adenine, thymine, cytosine and guanine. These are arranged in groups of three in a specific order, each group acting as a unit which specifies a particular amino acid.

To quote the dictionary, D.N.A. is self-replicating and plays a central role in protein synthesis. It is "responsible" for the complete life cycle of the living thing in which it is based as *well* as for the accurate transmission of hereditary characteristics from parents to offspring.

Responsibility

The notion of responsibility is highly intriguing. How can responsibility be shouldered on to a string of 12 non-living chemical atoms? There's a lot involved in answering this question and the scientists have not so far been able to come along with a solution. It must be observed though that scientists have done a wonderful investigation job in actually identifying D.N.A., R.N.A. (ribonucleic acid), messenger R.N.A., transfer R.N.A. and some of the chemicals involved in the whole system.

An interesting discovery made very recently is the proposition that ageing comes about by the shortening of some of the ends of the D.N.A. 'tentacles' (for want of a better word). These are likened to

the hardened ends on shoe laces and when these are shortened, our life span is also shortened.

The Helix

The human D.N.A. helix is made up with a simple but arbitrary number of connected items known as chromosomes (forty six) which overlay the four basic chemicals. Each of the chromosomes has thousands of a third layer of code characters known as genes, many of which have now been-identified by scientists.

It is interesting to note that the forty six human chromosomes are the product of a perfect match of twenty three male and twenty three female contributors. Not only do the chromosomes interlock perfectly but the genes also match up, with an inbuilt system of dominant and recessive types, each parent contributing to the gene 'pool'.

It has become well known that human and living reproduction generally depends on the zipping together of the two D.N.A. "half chains" to form a viable, functioning new molecule. The reproductive system, in the animal world, arranges that females produce ova, or eggs with all the mother's characteristics built into the half width chain. In one sense it is alive but unless it becomes united with a matching male D.N.A. half chain it simply dies and is abandoned. The male sperm appear also to be alive, but unless they unite with a female egg their life is only potential and they also die.

The Zip

As an illustration, we have a suitcase which has a zip fastener for closing. Each half of the zip is perfectly constructed and has the potential to fulfill its objective. To close the suitcase is one minor but essential event needed to make possible a good holiday trip. However if the case of clothes is picked up before zipping, in a sense, the prospect of the trip is futile. The clothes are all over the floor and the zipping was a trifling but essential procedure. But zip it up and the holiday becomes go, go, go. What did the zip do to alter the situation? Absolutely nothing, but a vastly superior and real intelligence controlled the operation and allowed everything to proceed.

A similar situation arises with the zipping together of the D.N.A. chains. They are incredibly complex but useless until zipped. The instant the zip closes, a whole lifetime of events is irreversibly set in motion and a new entity is literally 'created'.

An interesting side issue is the fact that some of the zipped up D.N.A. items are made to be used and then abandoned. For instance a child's first set of teeth and the birth placenta.

A Big Task

The zipped and almost invisibly small D.N.A. molecule has the inherent ability to accurately construct a 75 kilogram person, or perhaps a 4 tonne elephant or a 20 tonne kauri tree containing billions of totally organised atoms and molecules.

There may be three billion atoms in one human D.N.A. molecule but the chain appears to contain "instructions" to set up a brain, for example with about 150 billion neuron cells. Each neuron has incredibly complex functions, connections and abilities, and, like snowflakes, no two are identical. This is only one illustration of the incredibly complex and intricate designing features built into the D.N.A.

The Clock

There is also, it seems, an approximate 100 year clock built into the human body. It is wound up and set running by the D.N.A. This clock determines the timing of construction of all the body components. The actual operating timings are also controlled by the clock. These include the heartbeat and breathing rates, the waking and sleeping sequences, the maturity and falling in love cycles, to mention only the more obvious timetables.

As well there is of course the vast array of 'taken for granted' bodily, timed functions. These are controlled within very strict limits and include such things as blood manufacture, tissue oxygenation, hormonal manufacture and release systems, and enzyme production.

Other perhaps more abstruse functions could include the sensory systems, and nerve and muscle coordination linkages to name but a few.

D.N.A. Checks

There is also the whole range of inherited personality characteristics which sometimes do not show up for 50 years, but seem to be inextricably tied into the D.N.A. model. The most curious thing of all is that although the D.N.A. seems to organise and control our lives it is not inherently or necessarily alive. This has been clearly shown in recent times by the comparison of D.N.A. samples taken from deceased people with those of other deceased relatives.

A recent example was the proof by D.N.A. analysis that the now dead woman who claimed to be the daughter of the last Russian Tsar could not have been so in reality. It has been suggested that D.N.A. samples have been analysed from dinosaur fossils but we cannot be sure if this is true!

The implication of these tests is of course that D.N.A. is a lifeless chemical. However when I think about the enormous range of things that people can do and the large agenda of personality traits which we all possess I find it difficult to believe that they can be inbuilt into a purely chemical compound.

Random D.N.A.

The notion that the living world's fantastically complex and perfectly matched D.N.A. systems came into being by pure random chance, is in my view, well beyond the limits of logical credibility.

THE BIG BANG

4

A question which inevitably arises when considering the complexity of D.N.A. is, when did it all start?

The Singularity

The concept of the Big Bang as being the point of origin of the universe is gradually replacing the idea of an infinite and uniform universe. The scientific perception of the Big Bang, by those who consider it to be logical, is that the almost limitless proliferation of galaxies began at some point in the past, rather than having existed indefinitely.

The proposal is that the universe exploded to its enormous size from an 'almost' infinitely small subatomic particle and I understand this particle to be known as the 'Singularity'. In other words it was made out of nothing visible or tangible. Strangely though the 'nothing' contained all the matter of the universes as well as all the natural laws and forces required to keep everything together.

Although objects and things appear to us to be solid and real they are all essentially made of atoms, which in the final unreachable analysis are still composed of nothing.

THE TIME SPAN

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At this point it becomes relevant to refer to the Bible, being as it is a very ancient and informative document.

The Bible's first verse substantiates the Big Bang concept. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth".

The date of that event is however not stated and scientists are finding it difficult to agree on a reasonable time scale. It seems to be fairly commonly accepted though, that if there was a starting point it is between 13 and 20 billion years ago, and at present 14 billion seems a preferred figure.

Following the original creation, the story in *Genesis* chapter one becomes quite specific. The development of the earth to be habitable, and the introduction of all the living species is stated to have occurred over six days. Considering the work involved it is quite an astonishing time scale!

The 6 Days

The creation events are clearly allocated over the six day period but no indication is given as to the length of the days.

It is quite feasible to state, if there was archaeological evidence, that the 'day' of the dinosaurs was, perhaps, 160 million years. Quite a long day in anyone's book. So the six days could have been of any length, but they do indicate a time related sequence of events.

No indication is given as to the method of construction but it becomes quite clear that time was involved. It is well to remember, as Albert Einstein observed, that time *is* only relative anyway.

THE DESIGNERS

6

If we accept the Big Bang theory and its consequences as far as development is concerned, a difficulty may arise with the re-emergence of the idea that there is, or must have been, a Creator.

Many people have no problem with this concept and they accept the existence of God. We cannot define God, but he must have certain indisputable characteristics. He is One, eternal, spiritual, and all powerful. These are some of his attributes and the bible has large numbers of references to these and many others.

Job chapters 38 to 41 record the wonders of creation as evidence for God's existence.

The Trinity

God's reality is assumed all throughout the Bible. The book suggests that although God is One there are three aspects of his being. These appear in the way he communicates with his creation, including us as humans. This concept is known as the Trinity.

As Jesus stated in Matthew 28 verse 19 "Teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Although three titles are mentioned, the word "name" is singular and implies one person with threefold personality. It is quite a difficult concept to grasp but this in no way lessens its reality.

Not everyone accepts the existence of Tri-unity in God's nature but it certainly imparts a new sense of realism to the creation story.

The Father

The idea of the entire universe and its creation in time was in the mind of the Father. He decided to make a universe with a physical

dimension of reality for his own enjoyment and for the convenience and pleasure of its future physical inhabitants.

The Plan

The new creation was to include matter, energy, stars, planets and galaxies. A specialised section would be made to provide a comfortable world for a living creation with all its diversity. The final step would be to create beings with whom God could communicate on a person to person basis - humans.

Preparation

We can assume that preparations were necessary before the Big Bang. It is logical that "Time" would be introduced at that point. The 92 natural elements would have been designed and arranged to come into existence, spinning perfectly at the time of the "Bang".

It seems likely that the kingdom of angels and spirit beings pre-existed the physical creation but there is no reference in the bible as to when they actually came into being. However they would be required to operate the many aspects of the completed work.

The Maker, Jesus

It is at this point that the need for a practical constructor becomes evident. Most of us will recognise that our ability to make things is a completely separate skill from the one involved in thinking something out in the brain. In a sense we are dual personalities. This is the picture I now have of the Father as the designer and Jesus the Son as the maker of the creation - two people in one.

The Bible states Jesus' role very clearly.

Hebrews 1 verse 2 "God has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." and

John 1 verse 3 " - all things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life." - verse 1

"He was in the world and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

Jesus' Ability

Jesus the Son is in no sense at all inferior to the Father but he had the necessary ability to bring into being the vast network of created universes, and to design and make to perfection the environment for the world of living beings.

THE CONSTRUCTION 7

Having completed the physical universe, Jesus and his staff would have moved into the most fascinating area of all, LIFE. The design of the D.N.A chains necessary for the living world is from any point of view a stupendous task. We do not have any idea of the actual time involved but I imagine a vast amount of research work was required.

Organic Levels - Plants

There are clearly three levels of living organisms.

The first is that of plant life.

Plants are extremely prolific and if conditions are right, they cover the whole of the world's surface. There is four times as much plant life in the oceans as on land. Plants however have no 'soul' as such and seem unable to communicate or move voluntarily.

Animals

While there are some grey areas between the two, the second realm is the animal world.

For simplicity it could be said to also include things like shellfish, birds and insects. The animal world seems to have an additional element of ability in its make-up, and in a way, animals could be said to have a soul. In some ways they are able to communicate very well, but they do not have the real power of original thought, reason or emotion.

The complexity of this section of the creation agenda is staggering. It almost seems that a college of angel scientists was involved! And how did the living world actually come to life? It is suggested that this is the expression of the third aspect of the Trinity, God's Spirit. In this sense God gave life and movement in

fascinating dimensions to earth's living populations. There are an incredible number of different applications of the living process, from the smallest microbe to the largest tree.

Their characteristics as living entities are impossible to catalogue but each species is complete, self-operating and self-replicating. Even so in practically all cases they are fully interdependent on other totally different and unrelated groups. In this way the animal world depends on the vegetable world. The plant world generally relies on a balanced supply of animal produced carbon dioxide, water, and soil chemicals. The concept of getting everything working in a totally balanced and smoothly running system is a prodigious task for the innumerable sets of D.N.A

Competitions

It almost seems from the variety of things designed in the creation agenda that there could have been competitions amongst the assistant 'engineers' to see who could devise, through modifications to the D.N.A's, the most interesting insect! Perhaps also to see who could produce the most colourful and yet fully functioning bird or flower.

Humanity

The third layer is that of human beings. Many of the functioning features in mankind are found almost identically in the highly efficient animal world. As a result many people believe that the human race started simultaneously from a large number of animal type progenitors scattered around the world.

If this had been so there is not the remotest chance that the various D.N.A. molecules from the different individuals could have matched up and zipped together. In actual fact every human being is genetically compatible with every other member of the human race. We all know that a zip will not work if even one tooth in the chain is misaligned.

The only logical proposition is that the entire race started from a single pair, or to put it more accurately, from one entirely new and

distinct D.N.A. originator.

Adam

The Bible states that this was Adam. If he was the offspring of a pair of monkeys, his D.N.A was dramatically altered so that it did not in anyway match up with that of his parents or their other children. The Bible puts it quite clearly and in a very picturesque though hardly scientific way, - *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground" Genesis 2 verse 7.* Everyone accepts that our bodies are made of dust, and return to dust. Adam's mate was later made from a rib taken from his body (under anesthetic?) and therefore she possessed a perfectly matching D.N.A. design molecule.

It seems to be a fanciful story but the underlying implied scientific meaning is remarkably relevant. It is in fact essential in the light of today's knowledge.

The Bible does not mention D.N.A. and nor does any other ancient religious book but it is quite interesting that the Bible story of our ancestors' creation is based essentially on the perfectly logical view just stated, i.e. their D.N.As were compatible in a totally unique fashion.

Man being at the apex of the world creation structure, it became necessary to give to him the ability to be above all of the rest of the living world. He needed to have "life" in the way that God himself is alive, which is a totally different dimension from that of the plant and animal world.

The Breath of Life

One of the most profound and far-reaching statements in the Bible is *Genesis 2 verse 7* where *"the Lord God breathed into man the Breath of Life, and man became a living soul"*. At that point the created man became a spirit being, and possessed life in the supernatural sense.

How long did the whole creation process take? It is clear that time was necessary to devise all the programmes. Jesus may well have

taken 6 days, or 14 billions of our years to get the whole system constructed, balanced and running perfectly, in accord with his Father's 'idea'.

God's Approval

The simplistic *Genesis* account almost suggests that the various stages when completed were presented to the Father for his comments! In each case God says "Yes it's good!".

Some verses in *Luke 12* give us a peep through the door of God's design laboratory. Jesus was very well aware of the different levels of "technology" required in the development of the sophisticated - D.N.A. molecules.

He indicated clearly in *verses 24 to 28* that to modify the gene which controls a man's height is a trivial design feature compared with the amount of work required to think out birds or flowers. This is apparent when we consider all the information locked into the D.N.A. code.

Genetic Engineering

Even in these days when we are on the threshold of genetic engineering I very much doubt if any scientist will ever invent a new bird out of dead atoms!

Whether or not we believe the *Genesis* story of the creation of Adam does not make any difference to the fact that mankind is 'alive' although made entirely from inanimate earth, air and water. From the moment of receiving the breath of life, every single human person has inherited their life spirit from God himself. We take it all for granted. We are alive, we grow and we think, read and study without giving a fleeting thought as to how these abilities came about.

The First Humans

So at the end of the creation period the whole system ran perfectly. The human pair - on the basis of the *Genesis* story - were provided with everything they needed and were able to

converse freely with their creator. They were capable of thought and like God, had the power to make decisions, think ahead and have desires.

There was only one restriction put on their activities. This was for the reason that their good life would be lost forever if they had knowledge of evil - 'Do not eat the fruit of that tree or you will die.'

They had no conscience to worry them and their D.N.A. was faultless and working perfectly at the time God breathed in the breath of life.

We assume that our D.N.A. transmits our natural characteristics but there are some interesting aspects which can be further considered.

THE CODE

8

The basic concept of D.N.A. is that it is in essence a code. Dr Wilder-Smith in a lecture at Waikato University 'made this fact crystal clear and in fact reference to the dictionary shows that D.N.A. is the embodiment of the genetic code. As such it is a concealed language which requires interpretation to become effective. The question which then arises, is, whose intelligence understands the language of the code and is able to interpret it?

Code Scanning

In the grocery shop the scanner does the job on the barcode. It should be mentioned though that the word 'scanning' is a greatly simplified picture of the process of D.N.A. scanning. In a remote sense the four D.N.A. chemical bases bring to mind the different bars in the barcode, but there is no way that God's system can actually be compared to the grocery scanner. It is simply an interesting analogy.

In the shop the barcode is scanned once and abandoned because it is no longer needed. A D.N.A. coded molecule however is carefully built into every living cell of the new being and seems to have the complete catalogue of instructions for the entire life cycle of its 'product'.

The further questions which come to mind are, when is the D.N.A. scanned to trigger the life process, and by whom? It is a very real enigma, which almost becomes the question, What is Life? It is a puzzling problem which theologians generally avoid.

It is apparent that the initial scanning occurs at the instant of conception and this is clearly the most vital event in the setting up of a new "life". Because the D.N.A. is not abandoned there may well be a continuing scanning operation in action during the whole life cycle of the living thing or person.

The Soul

One is not in a position to say whether the "soul" reality of human beings is actually encoded into the D.N.A. It is however quite plain that a new soul or spirit comes into existence as the major aspect of the D.N.A. "scan" because many of a person's "soul" characteristics are genetically inherited. Even so, as an individual, a person is entirely new and unique. It is impossible to believe that the actual D.N.A. molecule has soul built into it but it is feasible to imagine that God imparts soul to a person at some point after the scanning has been authenticated.

THE COMPUTER

9

The scanning of the coded D.N.A. chains is life's most intriguing event. We cannot (yet) see how God's control complex operates, but I present in today's technological and human terms, my view of what may be happening.

It is proposed that at the heart of God's management offices is a fantastically powerful computer. This amazingly detailed machine has spirit sensors which reach to every part of the living world.

D.N.A Activation

The instant a D.N.A. chain is activated, be it plant, animal or human, the sensor scans the code and acknowledges the complete list of instructions.

Having read the species indicator in the very first section of the code, the information is immediately referred to the relevant recorded computer memory "disc". There will be at least one of these for each of the millions of different living organisms. They will all have been designed and set up during the "six day" creation.

Once the code has been authenticated, the life system is set in motion on earth by the operating sensor. It is able to organise all the chemical and electronic measures necessary to produce a viable, fully functioning living entity.

All the carefully timed manufacturing sequences will then come into action exactly as and when the "disc" delivers its orders. The process is virtually automatic with each function free to operate within carefully arranged limits. The whole system is under the very careful supervision of God's angel staff.

The Location

Just where the computer and the angel staff who operate it are located is a very moot question. God's kingdom is a spiritual domain, unrestricted by physical dimensions or boundaries. Angels or spirits are unlimited by time and space and there is no reason why the scanning operation (for want of a better description) should not occur right where the D.N.A. chemistry happens in our physical world. The process may be simple or complicated but it happens without fail.

Human Ability

When one thinks about it, it is ludicrous to imagine that the ability to do all the things which life involves can be built into a chain of lifeless chemicals. How could a chemical organise a smile, or tell me how to cut my toenails? There must be millions of complicated processes involved in everyday living and there is not the slightest chance that instructions and abilities for such events can be 'organised' by a few atoms.

Computer Ability

It is logical that the vast invisible background computer does the lot, based on the order and arrangement of the chemicals in the scanned D.N.A. code and the bank of information in the computer memory discs. Each computer 'disc' will also be responsive to the signals distributed by other species related and environmental information sources, and will adjust the lifestyle accordingly.

As I observe people and their multiplicity of actions, the more convinced I become of the logic of this reasoning. I suggest a redwood tree as an illustration, from the natural world, of the computer's power. How can a microscopic redwood tree D.N.A. molecule 'know' that it is going to produce an object 120 metres tall with millions of leaf forms and weighing perhaps 200 tonnes? It needs a perfect but invisible pump to force the life sustaining liquid sap from the roots to the highest branches.

Dead chemicals have no brains and the life force imparted to them comes via the angelic spirit world which runs and controls the

creation. This may at first glance seem unrealistic but if the angels do not do it, who does?

Their 'computer', like electricity, is to us totally invisible because although we have a spirit personality we are designed to live only in the material world. A broader view of the control system will be covered later in this essay.

The Head Office

God's spiritual kingdom is in a dimensional court far beyond the bounds of our present sensibility of time and space. It is in a sense far more real than our material world because God and his spirit 'employees' can and do relate freely to both worlds

THE ANGELS

10

Angels have already been mentioned in this article and it becomes necessary to consider some of the implications. In today's world few people, if any, claim to have experienced real contact with any person who could be described as an angel. As a result their existence is not readily accepted. Their appearance throughout history has been on infrequent occasions, in many cases separated by centuries, as recorded in the bible.

It would be good if there was another word which could be used to describe an angel, as the usual meaning is rather limited by historical mind-set.

The College

I have suggested a college of angel scientists and two references from the book of Job tend to confirm this view.

Job 1 verse 6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also amongst them."

Job 2 verse 1 "Again there was a day when the sons of God came ... "

It seems that regular meetings were, and are, held and the range of discussion would be totally fascinating. We, as created beings, have the power of independent thought, and there is no reason why angels should not have a similar but somewhat different power.

When considering the life process in total there is no other viable proposition for how LIFE can be set up and maintained but to have an angelic, or 'sons of God' regiment in control. It is perfectly logical to propose that it is the angels who arrange the computer scanning of the D.N.A. code at the instant of zipping and that they oversee all the subsequent operations.

Why Angels ?

Angels are an essential element of God's kingdom and its control. However the question immediately arises, not so much as to whether they exist but rather why should they be needed. Coming back to earth, why does any company whether manufacturing, transportation, accounting etc. need subordinate employees?

It is apparent that although the owner or chairman or 'King' knows exactly what he wants done, it suits him very well to have a group of subordinates at a diversity of levels to actually do the work. There is no earthly system which runs totally on automatic. There is always some person who 'knows' in the background and who has the power to modify and control the operation, whatever it may be.

Angel Care

There are a number of references in the bible which substantiate the view that angels are not simply the beings which we have come to accept - and to dismiss. The concept of them being purely winged creatures standing around "singing" or maybe occasionally being sent on a messenger journey is an extremely limited view. The bible does not actually say that they sing.

In Matthew 18 verse 10 Jesus said, "Take heed that you do not despise one of these children, for I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my father which is in heaven."

The implication is that they care for the children and have a responsibility to report to God everything that happens in the child's life.

Psalm 91 verse 11 states, "For he shall give his angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Satan as one of the chief angels, was fully aware of this when testing Jesus as noted in Luke 4 verses 10 & 11. The situation was much more serious though than tripping over a stone as Jesus was asked to test God's care by attempting and surviving a suicidal jump from a 70 metre high building.

Jesus refused the test because God has given us the power of reason and he would not accept a challenge of this sort, which seems to be typical of Satan's suggestive power.

Angel Power

Just like the organisation of human enterprises, there may well be a vast system of control layers with degrees of spiritual responsibility at various levels. The Bible suggests that some angels are in a more senior position than others but all are under the power of the chief executive. The bible refers to archangels. *Jude verse 9, 'Yet Michael the archangel when contending with the devil about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him an accusation, but said "The Lord rebuke you".'* Jesus could have personally asked for more than twelve legions (perhaps 70,000) of protective angels. Refer to *Matthew 26 verse 53 "Do you not know that I can now call upon my Father and he will protect me with more than twelve legions of angels?"* They were available at his request but they are only one part of the angel population.

Angel power can be awesome. There are some references in the bible to the concept of the angel (singular) of death. In *Second Kings 19 verse 35* one angel was able to eliminate a large number of soldiers in one night.

Human Spirit Beings

Even so it is quite possible to decide that angels or spirit beings are an impossibility in today's world. How then does one explain one's own ability to make such a decision? It is a decision made by one's spirit, through thought, and the notion that we have no spirit dimension is not reasonable. We are spirit beings at the top of the earthly creation.

Our life force is invisible, intangible and immeasurable, but it is as real as anything in existence. It gives us the powers of choice and reason. Our natures also possess emotions, memory and the ability to love or hate. These can only be spiritual characteristics over which, strangely we seem to have little actual control.

We do not have, and do not like, the idea of an external force in

control of any part of our lives and that is just the way God has arranged things. We live our whole lives on the assumption that our personality is perfectly natural and independent. We do not feel at all unusual and generally we conform to the standards of all our peers within fairly close limits.

It rarely crosses our minds that this ability comes essentially from our designer and is supervised by his employees, who may make suggestions of various sorts.

A HUMAN CONTROL SYSTEM

11

Recently I had the privilege of being shown through the control complex of one of our country's major television stations. There were, from memory, four large control rooms and a spacious multi-rostrum live broadcast theatre.

Control Rooms

The control rooms were full of equipment such as control panels, computers, monitors, switching gear, and among other things a complex autosystem for the organisation of advertisement broadcasts. To explain this last item a bit further, each ad was pre-recorded on a video tape cassette with a barcode on the end of the cassette. An operator would load up the cassettes for one, or several, ad breaks, in order, in a small open shelf type wall container.

When required, an operator would push one button and all the ads would automatically follow in sequence till the programme resumed. The whole operation was controlled by a computer which read the barcode on each cassette and did everything necessary for trouble free transmission.

The time of the visit was 11 :30am and the most amazing thing was the fact that only two control rooms were occupied. In one there were about four people, possibly directors or controllers, just talking. In the other three rooms there were lights showing, and monitors screening, but a total of just one young operator sitting by a monitor, controlling the broadcast.

A TV Story

A picture which crossed my mind was the concept of a television story. When we sit before a TV screen and watch a soap opera for instance, the picture we see is like a life story being presented to us. It will probably have a beginning, a middle and end, and the comparison between a TV life and our life can be interesting. Our own lives are presented before other people who may, or may not be interested in what they see. Similarly some TV programmes are riveting, while others are incredibly boring. We often simply switch them off and walk away.

However, back in the TV studios the equipment for presenting the episode is incredibly complex. There are a multitude of electronic components and computerised systems involved in getting all the facets of the transmission organised, and in the end one person presses the button to set it rolling. Some other person, or maybe 300 people, thought up and manufactured the programme which is offered. However neither the operator nor the equipment knows or cares an iota about the relevance of the actual story being presented, but the controller has the overriding power to actually switch everything off!

Electricity

The power behind TV is the invisible, intangible, powerful concept known as electricity which supplies both the TV station and the TV set. However to all intents and purposes while we watch the programme, neither the TV station nor its electrical power have any existence in our perception until turned off.

GOD'S CONTROL SYSTEM 12

I cannot help comparing the television illustration with the operation of the real universe and our own lives.

God's control room must be incredibly complex.

There will be a large number of departments, each with specialised tasks and responsibilities, and different methods of exercising control.

A fundamental operation is the maintenance of the physical inanimate creation. Atoms are not alive in the sense that we are but nevertheless they must abide by perfect and precise physical laws many of which have only been discovered by 'us' in recent years. Undoubtedly there is a 'computer' which receives information from throughout the universe, and which automatically sees to it that all the natural laws are obeyed exactly.

It will also have a section built in which controls, for example, the atomic changes in the sun, the explosions of supernova and if necessary the rate of decline in speed of the expanding universe. None of these things are difficult for a sophisticated computer with a multitude of specialised activities.

I have to say that I think the angels have been given specific responsibilities in the running of these 'machines' and that they do their job with remarkable ability.

The Departments

When it comes to the world in which we live though, a large group of specialized departments is required. A computer is needed to control the weather cycle and tides, and this must be compatible with the physical laws computer. This programme, while flexible, must also comply with all the requirements of the living world's computer department.

The Life Computer

The life control section of the 'computer room' is assuredly the most complex and interesting of the entire operation. There must be several different control aspects involved.

The first section would be the D.N.A. scanning department which has already been discussed. The second section would control the automatic life systems, another area would organise the actual construction of the living bodies, and a rather different branch is that which controls their functions. There are a vast number of automatic abilities which were never learned but were inbuilt right from conception. There is another layer of functions which it was necessary for us to learn but which when learned, become quite automatic.

And finally the section which allows the intangible thought processes, over which we appear to have complete and decisive control. This realm is outside the computer's jurisdiction and would include our ability to make choices at all levels, critical or otherwise.

This final section may be the one which permanently records all the personal actions and decisions made by individuals, and as suggested it is the one area which is not under the actual control of the computers. This has been given to us as the vital part of our own 'life'. *Revelation 20, verse 12* bears this out "*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God. And the books were opened, and another book was opened which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.* "

Personal Assessment

When I see other people, I now sometimes find myself subconsciously assessing all the computer functions involved in their lifestyles! Strangely though I somehow feel the situation does not apply to me personally and I suspect that my readers may well find themselves in the same unexplainable situation!

There is of course no way that any of us are outside the system.

THE VIRUS

13

If the living ecosystem was set up to run so perfectly, what went wrong? This is one of the most relevant and intriguing questions we can ask.

The Test

Reverting to the bible story again, which may possibly be just a simplified but realistic portrayal of events, it seems that when the whole set-up was finished and running it was subject to a trial period of operation. The human couple Adam and Eve were given a simple work-free existence to enjoy, but in reality they had no knowledge of actual death or actual permanent life. No mention was made to them of the possibility of eating of the "tree of life". Although it was there, it was presumably only after gaining the knowledge of relative good and evil that the desire may have been born for "life". They didn't realise that permanent life with an evil nature would be the worst scenario imaginable.

Satan

One of the most puzzling questions to appear in the bible is that of the existence of Satan - or Lucifer. The book of Ezekiel chapter 28 verses 12-19 gives a graphic description of the creation of Lucifer. It says that he was made perfect in his ways from the day of his inception. He was "Son of the morning" until he said, as recorded by *Isaiah 14 verses 12-17*, *"I will be like the most High- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."*

Like humans, Satan had at some stage been given the power of decision, one of the fundamentals of life, and his use of the words "I will" resulted in his banishment from the position of most admired and beautiful angelic being.

In spite of his foiled takeover bid he remains still in a very powerful

executive position as noted in *2 Corinthians 11 verse 14* "*For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*".

It would seem that when Jesus had finally completed his Father's creation plan, and it was operating to perfection, that Satan was single-minded in his desire to spoil it, because of his unquenchable ambition.

Eve

Because we are able to make decisions we wrongly assume that we have complete control of our lives. This assumption was made by our great, great, great, great, grandmother EVE. I like to think that she was the most beautiful and intelligent woman who ever lived. This is open to question!

Even though she was possibly very bright she became the victim of the most sophisticated confidence trick in the world's history. "TRUST ME" said Satan, "I know what goes on behind the scenes - you will become equal to God - and he knows everything - so, break the rule". Adam and Eve may well have lived in a protected enclave but they fell for Satan's persuasive tempting, ate the forbidden fruit and suffered the punishment of which they had been warned by God. It was, in essence, separation from their Creator, and expulsion from an earthly paradise.

Today's children have the same inclination. If a rule is stated, such as, "Do not go through the gate or you will be punished", the child instinctively goes straight to the gate. Because of the rule the child believes there must be something desirable through the gate, which is being denied. Also the child wonders whether the authority is actually able to be enforced. So the child goes through the gate.

The Virus

Satan being the extremely clever personality that he is, knew exactly where and how to implant his virus into every disc of Jesus' life computer after Adam and Eve's blunder. By doing this he bought disaster on to the creation and effectively took over control of the living world. He and his followers had possibly been involved in the design of the 'life' programme and his angels would have swiftly

stepped in and brought about the troubles of which we humans are so painfully aware.

The entire creation became subject to ageing, sickness, misery, greed, hatred and eventually death, the most dreaded of all human experiences. In the same way that the operator in the TV control room has power to switch off the programme, so the angel of death has the power to switch off the human life programme under order from a superior.

It is quite obvious that the picture presented of God's computer cannot possibly be the way things actually work, but in today's electronic age it is to me a realistic model of how the creation runs, and of how Satan has influenced the programme.

Satan's Control

Whether we like it or not Satan is the manager and he now controls the world. As he said to Jesus, and Jesus did not refute the statement, in *Luke 4 verse 16*, "*All this power will I give you and the glory of them (the world kingdoms) for that is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will, I give it*" said Satan. We are well aware of the reality of this statement when we see today's governments and those of past times. The world seems to be overfull of corrupt systems, murders, theft, personal and international dishonesty and even genocide. Job chapters one and two support the view that Satan can arrange human misfortune to almost any degree. *Job 2 verse 6*, and the Lord said unto Satan, "*Behold he is in your hand: but save his life*".

The world's D.N.A.'s have clearly been badly damaged and in addition to the situations mentioned there are also many malformations, deformities and abnormalities. Unfortunately the loyal angels are not in a position to do anything to repair them. They have power, but it is limited by Satan's overriding influence. While he has this position, they can only observe and carry out their instructions.

THE REMEDY

14

The world tragedies must have appeared to be an almost insurmountable problem to both the good angels and to the designer, Jesus.

May I present a familiar type situation to illustrate the point.

A Picture

The relationship of Jesus with the various groups or ranks of angels could, in the sense of a parable, resemble the structure of some of our advanced business organisations.

Business

A man who develops a business has set it up to operate efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the customers, and for his own pleasure and satisfaction. A large multi-layered structure of employees is organised to do the work. These employees will have a large range of abilities from the menial, right through to those of the deputy manager. They will be fully able to do all the work needed to manufacture the product or provide the service required for the clients.

Unfortunately, some employees, particularly those near the top of the tree, allow their personal ambitions to dominate their work approach. The chief executive may secretly wish to take over the organisation. Being a very smart person, he may persuade others on the staff to join his rebel group and the sum of his actions may well culminate in irreparable damage to the clientele.

The rebel, in effect, takes over the business and the original developer is faced with a disastrous but not totally unexpected calamity. What can he do? Well, his best approach may be to join the customer group incognito and to personally assess the damage that has been caused at all levels. Being the designer of the product, he

knows what all the final effects of the malfunction will be. In the end he will need to go through the bad consequences of the faulted production to show clearly to all the victims that he has available the one and only remedy for the damage. He will make it clear that the choice is theirs personally, and his experience will show that the cure he offers is effective. As for the renegade employees, they will all eventually be dismissed.

The Application

The illustration is to me a very realistic portrayal of what happened with the coming of Jesus.

Jesus could be described as the 'company' developer and the overall designer as has been suggested. The very large group of angels are indeed the employees whose task it is to see to the smooth running of the creation. Whether we like it or not, probably the chief angelic being is Satan and his seduction of part of the employed angelic host enabled him to cause the incredible damage to the created world, perhaps before as well as following Eve's seduction.

Jesus would have known from the beginning that the only way to rectify the harm was to be personally identified with the damaged creation, and show that he cares deeply for all those who are suffering as the result of Satan's actions. He by-passed his staff of *angels Hebrews 2 verse 9 "But we see Jesus who was made for a little time lower than the angels,"* and became truly human to show total identification with the sorrows caused by Adam and Eve's acceptance of Satan's persuasion..

In a unique way the people with whom Jesus had contact had a first hand personal appreciation of his power, love and wisdom. Jesus had dealings with every level of society. His healing powers were unlimited and even when death had come about he had the ability to reverse the death button.

The Crucifixion

Like the developer's decision in the illustration, Jesus knew that the only way human beings could be rescued was for himself to go through the end result of the damage. In his case it was the death

we now inherit from Adam. He had to show us all that death was as real to him as to us, and that it was necessary for him to suffer if he was to save us from it. Death is the opposite of creation. Like us, Jesus did not want to face it even though he had the power to overcome it. The crucifixion was for him the most humiliating experience possible. It was however the only remedy for the terrible situation with which humanity is faced.

The Conqueror

The good thing is that he is the one and only person with the power to conquer death, and that he did so to our eternal benefit.

Jesus' life and death are the ultimate expression of God's immeasurable love for mankind. This is expressed in clear cut terms in the Bible in *John chapter 3 and verse 16* *"For God loved the world so greatly that he gave his Son, so that whoever truly believes in him may not die but have eternal life. "*

We may still have to go through physical death but we know that if we have trusted in Jesus, we will be resurrected as he was. This will be to our eternal life and re-union with God, which was the sole aim of Jesus' death. The result will be the total happiness which God intends for his created men and women.

Because Jesus the Son and Creator has completely identified himself with us all in our humanity, it is most logical that when we speak to the Father, we may do so through the name of Jesus his Son, and that our requests will therefore be heard.

Virus Removal

Still to occur though is the final and only way that a virus can be removed from a control system. As all computer operators know, once a virus is implanted in the computer memory, the only way it can be removed is for the entire memory to be erased, and completely renewed to eliminate the bad effects of the "infection".

As far as creation is concerned this event, or series of events, has been foretold in the New Testament, particularly in *Revelation chapters 11 to 18*.

The whole of the renegade creation is to be destroyed and Satan with all of his angels consigned to everlasting destruction. *Matthew 25 verse 41 "Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels,"*

The Ultimate Heaven

In the new heaven and new earth, noted in *Revelation 21 verse 1* the evil angels will certainly not be present. However the angel forces generally may have a very different task to perform. They will not be required to manage the new earth which is promised, *Hebrews 2 verse 5* suggests this *"For it was not to angels that God subjected the future habitable world,"*

Perhaps the computer system will in effect become redundant as the inhabitants will have equality with the angel population. *Matthew 22 verse 30 " - For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."* It is an extremely intriguing prospect for us to look forward to.

We are given only a fleeting picture form of the situation in the final two chapters of Revelation as it is impossible to present in human terms a realistic portrayal of perfection, I have a feeling that perhaps the secrets are not divulged to us or to anyone else so that Satan cannot even get a glimpse of what is to come. God is not going to give him another chance.

The good thing is that it gives a wonderful hope to all of us who have endured the shortcomings of this life.

We look forward with unbounded pleasure to seeing, understanding and enjoying the unlimited things which God has in store for his people.

Paul's reference in *1 Corinthians 2 verse 9* is enthralling. *"Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him."*

Hope to see you there !