

March Essay

Where does Protein Come From?

Unless you are a young-earth creationist you *may* be unaware of the *Creation* magazine of Creation Ministries International. You would find it a very interesting read! (Details below) In the July-August issue of 2006 it included an excellent article on proteins, entitled, 'Did God create life? Ask a protein.'

The Old Story....

Children in school, it said, are taught that amino acids—the building blocks of protein – were formed accidentally in the primeval ocean and went on to assemble themselves into protein molecules. But— among scientists— even atheists are giving up this story! Why?

....Is Wrong!

1. Amino acids cannot concentrate in the ocean. 2. Even if they could, contamination would prevent proteins from forming. 3. Naturally occurring amino acids are 50-50 left and right 'handed'. But living things use only left-handed proteins. So protein formed outside the cell be no good anyway. 5. The assembly of amino acids in the right order to form protein is complex. Not Any old order will do!

The New Story However....

The new story is therefore, not that amino acids accidentally self-assembled into proteins, but that RNA already existed and catalyzed protein-formation! The Creator is still unnecessary, it is thought. But this story is as wrong as the other one! Why? Because *RNA—like DNA— will only form inside a living cell.*

....Is Just as Wrong!

First of all, proteins are no good unless they are folded into the correct three-dimensional shape in order to connect with other proteins, &c—just as a key has to have a particular shape in order to fit a particular lock. *Not any old shape will do.*

Super Computer at Work!

Did you know that IBM built a super-computer to solve the problem of protein-folding. Amazingly it was reckoned—even given the huge amount of intelligence and expertise behind this project!—that it would take this super machine about a year in which to come up with the answer. Yet the cell folds umpteen proteins umpteen times a day in less than a second each. *Does protein-folding sound like the accidental product of non-intelligence?*

Chaperones

But the folding isn't the whole story. There are special proteins, called chaperones, which help other proteins-in-the-making to fold properly. But how did the chaperones manage to fold themselves properly in the first place? *Did they rely on earlier chaperones—and did those chaperones rely on still earlier chaperones?*

Getting to their Destinations

But how do the proteins know where to go once they are folded? There are umpteen wrong places that a newly folded protein could get to—and a protein landing up in the wrong place can be a serious matter. Some serious diseases are caused in this way. So proteins have to be properly 'addressed'. Amino acid 'strings' perform this function. *But who or what addressed the first protein?*

Chaperones again

Then replete with the proper address, the protein is taken to its prescribed destination by a chaperone— acting like a postman! The chaperone helps the protein to fit exactly into its position. *How does the chaperone know where to deliver?*

Switching On and Off

But the cell needs exactly the right amount of each protein. Too much or too little and the cell is in trouble—and so are we! So the protein-making mechanism has to be switched on and off as required. Well, there are stretches of 'regulatory DNA sequences', which perform this function in conjunction with specialised regulatory proteins. Perfect coordination is necessary to carry out this function. *But however did such a mechanism arise in the first place? By accident?*

Tip of the Iceberg

The author of the article rightly says that he has only uncovered the tip of an 'iceberg' of amazing complexity. His argument is that such complexity and ingenuity—that demands such high intelligence in science research—did not originate by self-assembly or by accident. *It was designed by a fantastically intelligent God, who created the heavens and the earth.*

Meaning and Purpose

It is this that gives meaning and purpose to life. Consider the machines in your home—each of which has a purpose—each of which was designed and made. Not only did the Creator design and make us: He can re-make and re-new us when we have gone wrong. His Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world for that very reason— *to seek and to save that which is lost.* That is what this website is all about.

Tom Edmondson

You can read other informed and illustrated articles along this line in *Creation* magazine.

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