



We Destroy Arguments

Lesson 8: Evolution, Argument from Folly, Pt 1

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Introduction

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- **Many atheists feel justified in their atheism because of the theory of evolution. They believe it adequately explains origins.**
 - **Truly, the theory of evolution fails against the PIA technique, and it would not even be possible without inductive inference, yet they claim evolution was random.**
 - **This indeed is the most prevalent atheistic attack against the Christian worldview.**
 - **This lesson will focus on the argument from folly.**

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History of the Theory of Evolution

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- **The idea of evolution has ancient roots (Anaximander, 610-546 BC).**
 - **Uniformitarianism gave evolution its avenue for wider acceptance.**
 - **Uniformitarianism—the theory that geological processes have been uniform throughout earth’s history; therefore, the present-day rates and conditions uniformly apply to the past.**
 - **Evolution lacked a believable mechanism (Lamarck) until Darwin.**

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Description of the Theory of Evolution

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- **In its most basic form, the theory states that billions of years ago, the universe originated through a big bang causing space, time, and energy to expand from an original and infinitesimal point at an extremely fast rate. As energy cooled down, it formed into matter, which over time condensed into stars and galaxies.**
 - **The stars, in turn, produced heavier elements, which then condensed into planets. Our solar system supposedly emerged in this manner, with the earth possessing the right conditions for biological life.**
 - **On earth, living matter emerged from nonliving matter in a pre-biotic soup, which under the right conditions made spontaneous generation possible. Through cell division, these early organisms multiplied, eventually evolving into something entirely different. Over millions and millions of years, life evolved from lower to higher complexity throughout the course of various geological ages. Human beings represent one of the more recent products of this chance-based, random circumstance of earth history.**

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Description of the Theory of Evolution

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- **Darwin proposed that evolution happened through natural selection. Later evolutions added mutations as a mechanism.**
 - **Christians should update their terminology.**
 - **General Theory of Evolution (GTE) and Special Theory of Evolution (STE) rather than Macro and Microevolution.**
 - **GTE—all living things share a common ancestry.**
 - **STE—speciation. New species emerge within a phylum, but do not develop into new phyla altogether.**
 - **The terminology matters. It helps us identify the fallacy of equivocation.**

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Evolution is first a Philosophy

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- **Presuppositions and unproven convictions control the reasoning of evolutionists just like everyone else. It is not just simple science.**
 - **Therefore, the PIA works well against it.**
 - **Even though it is a philosophy, we still need to evaluate it as a scientific theory too.**
 - **The I and A in the PIA will be particularly useful here.**

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What is Science?

- **These are the criteria of the National Science Education Standards.**
 - **Science 1) depends on observational data; 2) results in accurate predictions; 3) is logical; 4) is open to criticism; 5) proliferates accurate information; and 6) contains no presuppositions.**
 - **The GTE fails all these standards.**
- **We must insist on the difference between operation and historical science.**

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A Presuppositional Refutation

- **Creation vs. evolution is not a contest between religious dogma and scientific fact. Both sides appeal to science and facts. Both sides come to different conclusions because of presuppositions.**
 - **Consider a quote from professor of zoology from Harvard University, Richard Lewontin.**
- **Evolution is a form of religious dogma. The dogma is materialism. It dictates what they will accept and reject.**

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The PIA Technique

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- **The fundamental assumption is Time + Chance = Evolution. This is the fallacy of begging the question.**
 - **The entire basis of biology is the uniformity of nature, which is inconsistent with chance as the ultimate principle.**
 - **If they accuse us of circular thinking, we point out that we all do so in a broad sense, but we don't have the same problem as them since their presuppositions contradict the preconditions of intelligibility.**

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Using Probability to Test their Assumption

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- **They assume that time and chance with the right conditions can lead to spontaneous generation (life from non-life). The odds are against them.**
 - **The simplest theorized reproducing organism contains numerous proteins and molecular machines that code and store information.**
 - **DNA, Decoders, ATP, and the ATP Synthase. This is a super chicken and egg problem!**
 - **ATP synthase is a rotary motor within organisms. Evolutionists want you to believe that random chemicals in a soup can create functional motors that provide energy to decoders that then read information!**

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The Problem of Information

- **The simplest living cell contains information in the form of DNA. Where did the information come from?**
 - This question is even more important than the question of probability.
- **Information is the basis of all life, and information is not random.**
 - **Analogy of letters, words, sentences, and books.**
 - **Information-- a non-repeating, non-predictable arrangement of signals that can be read and understood by some pre-engineered system with a predetermined set of rules for storing, retrieving, and interpreting instructions.**

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Testing Probability

- **Consider *Mycoplasma genitalium*. It has 482 genes with 580,000 bases, and is the smallest genome of any known organism.**
- **Consider the simplest cell hypothetically speaking.**
 - **With unrealistically favorable conditions, the odds of spontaneous generation with this cell are 10^{5035} . There are only 10^{80} atoms in the universe, 10^{12} atomic interactions per second, and 10^{18} seconds in 14 billion years, which means on the evolutionist's timeline, there would only be 10^{110} atomic interactions possible.**
 - **This falls disastrously short of the time required for the occurrence of something with the odds of 10^{5035} .**
- **The real odds are even worse.**

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Testing Probability

- **The probability of randomness accounting for life is impossible. This is so even with the deep time proposed by secularists.**
- **It would take a whole new set of natural laws to make this possible.**
- **This means one of the most fundamental assumptions of GTE is IMPOSSIBLE.**
- **Michael Denton makes a different calculation, not of the spontaneous generation of a cell, but of the proteins necessary for the generation of a cell. The odds of just the proteins is 10^{2000} .**

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Conclusion

- **The theory of evolution (GTE) is a fairytale for grown-ups.**
- **Its presuppositions are impossible.**
- **Information undermines the entire idea of random cell generation.**
- **Probability studies reveal the impossibility of random spontaneous generation.**
- **Next time, we will continue with more probability studies and then move into other problems with evolution.**

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Questions?

- **Any questions?**