

# Science vs. Spontaneous Generation

One of the pillars of Darwinian evolutionary theory is spontaneous generation, the unfounded belief that life originally came from dead (i.e., non-living) matter. The ancient Greeks believed in this process, also known today as abiogenesis, and it was a widely held view for millennia thereafter. Even 300 years ago, the scientific community thought that new life commonly and spontaneously arose from dead matter. As one well-known example of this idea, it was thought that a rotting piece of meat would generate maggots, which would then become flies. Charles Darwin, a divinity school graduate, accepted this premise and conjectured that the first forms of life appeared spontaneously from a “warm little pond, with all sorts of ammonia and phosphoric salts, lights, heat, electricity, etc.”

However, the brilliant scientist, Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), whose ground-breaking research led to scientific discoveries that have benefitted mankind since they were made, definitively proved that life comes only from other life. Pasteur, who shared the title of “the father of germ theory and bacteriology,” with a German physician, conducted experiments 150 years ago in which organic material was tested to determine the circumstances in which microorganisms would grow. It had been proven by prior

research that a closed container would prevent the growth of microorganisms in organic material, but Pasteur proved that a “nutrient broth” would not generate them even when exposed to air, so long as airborne organisms and dust were not allowed to contaminate it.

In one experiment, Pasteur placed such a broth in a flask having a long s-curved neck and left it unsealed for a full year. The shape of the flask trapped airborne microorganisms and dust and kept them from reaching the nutrients, which prevented any bacterial growth in the flask. To further prove his theory, Pasteur broke off the flask’s neck and allowed airborne contaminants to reach the nutrients; in a single day, the broth became cloudy from microorganism growth. With this and other experiments, Pasteur, like scientists before him, demonstrated that life only comes from life, which reality is now referred to as the Law of Biogenesis. German scientist, Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902), furthered mankind’s knowledge of that law when he discovered that every cell originates from another existing cell like it, via binary fusion.

Despite having this knowledge, some within the scientific community have clung to Darwinian evolution and its disproven premise of spontaneous generation because they have refused to accept the clear and logical alternative of special creation explained in Genesis 1

and 2. Here’s a sampling of quotes from just a few of them:

Dr. George Wald, professor emeritus of biology at Harvard University and a Nobel Prize winner: “There are only two explanations as to how life arose: spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural act of God. Spontaneous generation was *scientifically disproved* (emphasis added) 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with one other possibility...that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can’t accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.”

Dr. Robert Jastrow, founding director of NASA’s Goddard Institute of Space Studies: “According to this story, every tree, every blade of grass, and every creature in the sea and on the land evolved out of one parent strand of molecular matter drifting lazily in a warm pool. What concrete evidence supports that remarkable theory of the origin of life? There is none... At present, science has no satisfactory answer to the question of the origin of life on the earth.”

Dr. Colin Patterson, paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History and recognized fossil expert: “The explanation value of the evolutionary hypothesis of common origin is nil! Evo-

lution not only conveys no knowledge, it seems to convey anti-knowledge. How could I work on evolution 10 years and learn nothing from it? We know it ought not be taught in high school, and that’s all we know about it.”

To that concluding remark, we say “Amen!” Neither school children nor anyone else should be taught anything, whether in the field or science or any other discipline, that possesses no substantiating evidence and is demonstrably false, a description that certainly applies to Darwin’s hypothesis of spontaneous generation. Rather, children should be taught that true knowledge of the universe begins with knowing the One who created it. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction,” (Proverbs 1:7).

If you are struggling with belief in God, please let us know. We would be glad to provide additional proofs of His existence and explain His love for you.

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*(Sources: Darwin’s Demise, White and Commnellis; The Law of Biogenesis, Part I, ApologeticsPress.org; Convicted, Harrub; Man of Science, Man of God: Louis Pasteur, ICR.org).*