

EVOLUTION AND CREATIONISM

"Monkeys are the cwaziest people", a smiling comic of yesteryear use to say and I recall the comic foursome called "The Monkees". And some of us act and look like monkeys. Yet the great debate between Evolution and Creationism rages on. Though I do not celebrate or remember the famous Scopes trial of 1925 -scholars remind of the quest to teach Evolution in the classsroom. As we near celebration of the birth of the Christ child let us ruminare a bit.

Darwin held that 'all species of plants and animals developed from earlier forms by hereditary generations and those which survived adapted best to the environment: natural selection; thus biological Evolution teaches 'development of a species, organism or organ from primitive state(or original state)to its present specialized state'.

Creationism comes from the study of Genesis in the Old Testament of the Bible. It is a doctrine that ascribes the origin of matter, species, etc from acts of God....."In the beginning God created the heavens and earth". In seven days his work was done: light and darkness, land/water , animals and vegetation. In Eden God created man in his own image and took a rib from him and made woman. There the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge(good/evil)were created and rivers flowed: Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, Euphrates. Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge, hence sin.

Like a voice in the wilderness, Phillip E. Johnson(Reason in the Balance: the case against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education, circa 1995)continued his reasoned battle against Darwin and overwhelming criticism from biologists and academia in general. Johnson, a Christian, a graduate of Harvard, law clerk for Chief Justice Warren has taught law for over twenty years at Cal Berkeley. In this study he mentions the Dean Kenyon case.

Dean Kenyon, a distinguished senior biology professor, San Francisco State University, co-author of a standard work on the origin of life on earth: 'Biochemical Predestination'-though he taught the orthodox naturalism of the contemporary scientific community-he became disenchanted with efforts to explain life as a 'purposeless and unguided chemical evolution'. He became a proponent of "intelligent design" a more reasoned argument, though he did not endorse the Genesis account, yet subscribed to the theory a pre-existing supernatural intelligence had been involved in some way. Wrath of students and Academia there argued against this and asked Kenyon to step down and quit teaching 'religion'. He retained the right to continue teaching and won the fight with the Academic Board. Both Johnson and Kenyon were influenced by Michael Behe.

Behe(Darwin's Black Box)applied bio-chemical criteria based on the Watson/Crick discovery of double-helical shape of DNA that unlocked secrets of the cell and showed by experiment the arsenal of chemical machines, finely calibrated, interdependent parts. For Darwism, there must be a series of mutations each producing a machine, this beyond Darwin's imagination and proof. Science is silent on this argument....again intelligent design.

Regardless of what the Evolutionists believe Christians are comfortable with their beliefs and do not lie awake nights worrying about the critics, and the apologists for life. A Christian believes the Bible is the word of God and awaits the reason for the season, the celebration of Jesus' birth. Faith is the crucible of our belief and our standard bearer.