



Saltash, Cornwall

Chance.

Some people like to think that this world and everything in it came about by chance, by accident. Every single organism including you and me on planet Earth is made up of cells. These cells contain chromosomes, and the main constituent of these chromosomes is the DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) molecule. The DNA molecule is configured in a double helix formation and contains what is known as the genetic information. This information consists of base pairs (chemical groups), in which there are four types A, C, G and T. The base pairs have to be ordered in a specific way, so that they can be replicated to form the body of the organism and control its development. Today we can decipher the code (genetic information) and see which genetic sequences control what part of the process of the manufacture, development and control of each living organism, knowing that every single organism has a slightly different arrangement, which makes each and every one of us unique. The genetic information must be arranged in a specific order, so we read it as a combination of letters. Where as our alphabet is 26 letters, the DNA alphabet is 4 letters. like our alphabet, we can make words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters and even books. The DNA of a human being is equivalent to many volumes of encyclopedia britannica, it is that big. Like words on a page, if the letters are not in a specific order then the sense on the page becomes nonsense and we fail to get the meaning that was intended. As you read this you can see the meaning that I am trying to convey to you. the more mistakes I make on the page the more confused you will be. The fact that you can make sense of what I am typing indicates that an intelligent being is communicating with you, and is not what you would expect if I had selected a random collection of letters. In the DNA, if the letters (base pairs) are arranged haphazardly then you won't get a living, fully functioning organism. Genetic diseases are the result when mistakes occur in the replicating of the genetic code of a living organism.

Now some people believe that all of this could have come about by chance and this is how they explain it. Imagine a hundred monkeys randomly hitting the keys on a hundred typewriters for a hundred million years and you could get as a result, the works of shakespeare. So given enough time, anything can happen, remember this the next time you read a book, it may not have been written by an intelligent author, the author's name may be an illusion on the cover of the book. The problem with this analogy is that we have never observed a hundred monkeys typing on a hundred typewriters for a hundred million years, that's because we can't, we don't live long enough. Another problem is that in order for us to take this analogy seriously, we have to assume beforehand, the existence of the monkeys, the typewriters, the table and chairs that they are sitting on and the room and the whole universe. These things are not explained, they are assumed. Chance, and especially pure chance must explain the existence of everything. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at Cern in Switzerland is a case in point, they fire particles at each other to show how the universe has come about by chance, without any intelligent intervention, but where did the LHC come from and who is firing these particles in this particular direction, is that by chance. Another case in point is the Miller-Urey experiment that was used to show how life could come about by chance by using what they believed were the early conditions on Earth, but who made this experiment? Who put up the apparatus and the chemicals together? Was this by chance?

A more modern equivalent of the monkey analogy is to use a computer. With a computer you can get results quicker than by waiting a hundred million years. Simply program a computer to produce random letters, and you can produce a valid sentence within a very short space of time. Now this has been demonstrated, so there you go, that proves it. Wait a minute, what's going on here? Just say we want to find out how long a computer can produce the word "apple". The program picks a random letter out of a possible 26. The computer has been "programmed" only to move onto the next letter when it has produced an "a" then a "p" and so on until we get the word "apple". This would not take the computer very long. But is this really by chance or to be more exact, pure chance? Yes the letter's were generated by chance, but the letter's were not selected by chance, neither is the fact that we are using a predetermined 26 letter alphabet. We could go on and point out that the computer didn't occur by chance or the universe in which the computer sits, unless you "assume" that the universe occurred by chance. A better illustration of natural selection would be the word puzzle where you have to substitute a single letter each time, but each time the word must make sense, that is, be a proper word. For example, change the letter "r" for a "b" changes "read" to "bead". Change "d" for "t" changes "bead" to "beat". Change "e" for "o", changes "beat" to "boat". You see each time you change a letter we are still left with a fully functioning word. In nature each generation must produce a fully functioning organism, capable of producing offspring. My point is that chance, that is, pure chance does not produce order, complexity and design, you have to include some intelligence.

Prayer:- Heavenly Father, the evidence of your handiwork is all around us. I pray for those who study your world, that they will do it in honesty and in the pursuit of truth, and not colour their findings to suit their own world-view or because of the fashionable view. We pray for those who wish to speak the truth but are silenced or who live in fear of being labeled a "religious fanatic" because they do science and believe in you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

By Philip Catherall