

LESSON 6

DNA BY DESIGN, PART 2

— DOING THE MATH

Odds of Getting Combination by



10

sites with

20

amino acids

10,000,000,000,000 possible combinations

06 OVERVIEW

Chance



= 20¹⁰

binations!!!

EW

Is it possible for life to have begun by mere chance? Where did the specified information in DNA come from? How did life first begin?

Materialistic scientists have offered several theories on how non-intelligent natural processes might explain the digital code we find in DNA. These theories include chance, natural selection, and self-organization.

However, Dr. Meyer shows the mathematical and logical difficulties that these theories face in explaining the origin of life. The conclusion is inescapable: Undirected processes do not create the information that life needs to get started.



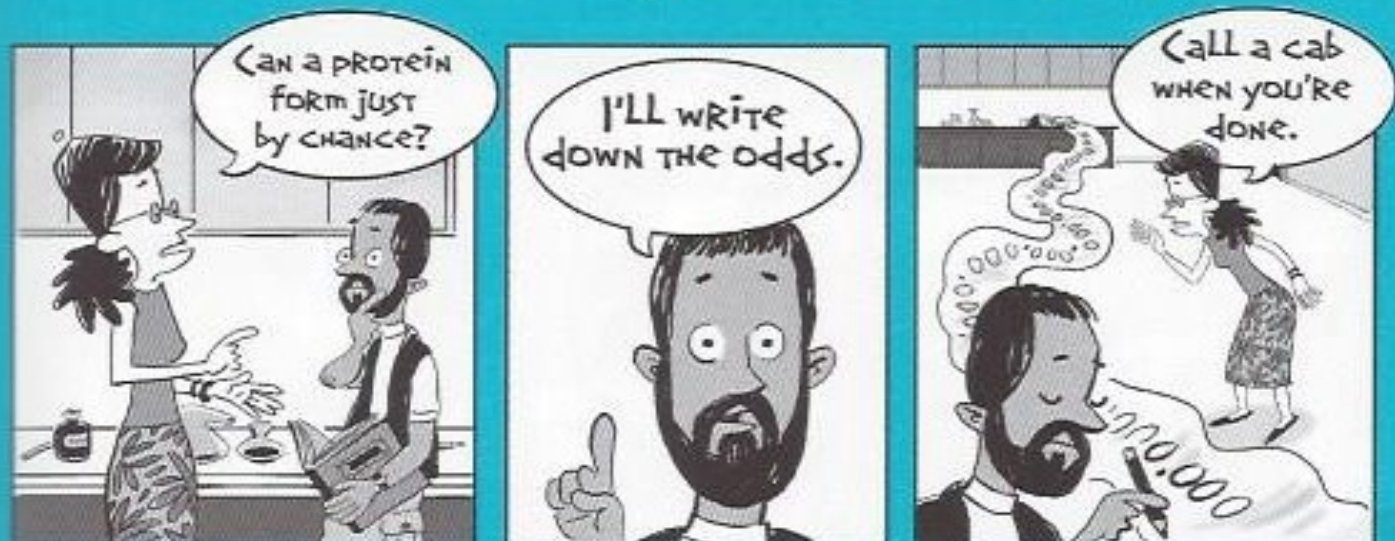
QUOTE UNQUOTE

What did Dr. Meyer say? Fill in the blanks as you watch his presentation.

1. How many of us stop and think about the fact that the DNA molecule has digital code along the _____?
2. If you want to produce specified information, _____ alone is not a very effective mechanism.
3. In any linguistic system, the _____ possibilities are a very small, minute fraction of all the total possibilities.
4. There are _____ possible protein-forming amino acids.
5. Non-_____ bonds can't form proteins.
6. No _____ thinks that life began by chance.
7. Natural selection depends upon what's called _____ reproduction.
8. Natural selection presupposes organisms that can _____ themselves.
9. What you're dealing with is a true message system, but it's not governed by _____ and _____.
10. Undirected processes do not produce the _____ you need to produce the first life.

NOT A CHANCE!

CHANCE! The odds against amino acids forming a functional protein by chance are so astronomical that no serious scientist supports the chance hypothesis anymore.

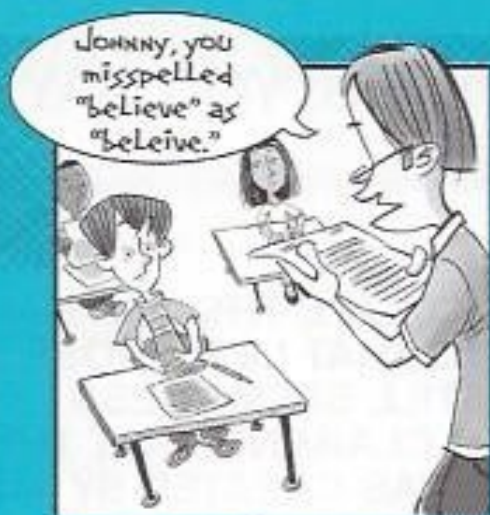


WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

CART BEFORE THE HORSE

Natural selection ("necessity") cannot explain the origin of information in the first cell, since the process of selection itself requires information (DNA, proteins) that didn't exist prior to life.





CHEMICALS CAN'T SPELL

Molecular forces of attraction cannot explain the sequence of amino acids in the backbone of DNA.

PROFESSOR SAYS, YOU SAY

Discuss as a group what you would say if a college professor made this statement in class:

FOLKS, YOU CAN CALCULATE THE ODDS ALL YOU WANT, BUT SAYING THAT LIFE AROSE PURELY BY CHANCE STILL SEEMS LESS PREPOSTEROUS THAN CLAIMING THAT THIS WHOLE SORRY MESS WAS CREATED BY AN ETERNAL AND LOVING GOD.

You can refer to your notes, if you took any during Dr. Meyer's lecture. Support or add to one another's responses, bringing in any relevant Bible passages. Perhaps you'd like to role-play the dialogue, taking turns to represent the professor.

WHAT OTHERS SAID

"When I was in my twenties, I read James D. Watson's Molecular Biology of the Gene. . . . The understanding of life is a great subject. Biological information is the most important information we can discover." —Bill Gates, The Road Ahead

"The likelihood of the formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it. . . . It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. . . . If the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence." —Fred Hoyle

WHAT IS WHAT? *A matching quiz*

Draw a line from each term in the first column to its definition in the second column.

1. LEHNINGER

A. prebiotic natural selection

2. NECESSITY

B. originator of self-organization theory

3. SELF-ORGANIZATION

C. molecular forces of attraction create the digital code

4. KENYON

D. biochemist who advocated chance

"An intelligible communication via radio signal from some distant galaxy would be widely hailed as evidence of an intelligent source. Why then doesn't the message sequence on the DNA molecule also constitute prima facie evidence for an intelligent source? After all, DNA information is not just analogous to a message sequence such as Morse code; it is such a message sequence." —Charles B Thaxton, Walter L Bradley and Robert L Olsen, *The Mystery of Life's Origin, Reassessing Current Theories*