

The BEACON



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The Story Behind the Picture of the Praying Hands

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the elder children had a dream. They both wanted pursue their talent for art, but the father knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he was beginning to earn money in fees for his commissioned



When the young artist returned to his hometown, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming.

After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose

from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears

streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no ...no ...no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I

cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late." More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, if you still need one, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!

"The Golden Gift"

Some time ago, a friend of mine punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found that the box was empty.

He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside of it?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty."

I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged her forgiveness. My friend told me that he kept that gold box by his bed for years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as parents has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children.

There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

***TAKE IT WITH YOU -

LESSONS ***

Evolution 101 — by Jolly F. Griggs Lesson 1

The first thing a Christian needs to know about the evolution controversy is that a large majority of scientists are atheists, most of whom prefer to call themselves humanists. It is unclear whether some are atheists first and evolutionists second or became atheists after becoming evolutionists. Both groups are adamant that God must be excised from the public mind and that evolution is the perfect weapon to do the job. While only a small minority of the population at large, the atheists dominate the scientific community in our schools, universities and government research projects.

Here is a large group of professing Christians who contend that evolution was God's method of creating. They are known as theistic evolutionists, an oxymoron or contradiction in terms. Since evolution and creation by God are mutually exclusive concepts, the words of George Orwell are appropriate to describe them as engaging in *“doublethink, the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.”* These people essentially are calling God a liar when He speaks in **Exodus 20:11**, a portion of the Fourth Commandment, *“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the seas and all that in them is and rested the seventh day.”*

Another group of professing Christians are known as progressive creationists. They believe that a gap of billions of years followed Genesis 1:1. Then God supposedly destroyed the original creation and started over again with Genesis 1:2. Pastors, Preachers and Priests of both groups hope to harmonize the Bible with

geology and astronomy. They bear major responsibility for losing the battle for the *“free exercise of religion”* in our public schools. Also, they are flirting with blasphemy.

Next, the Christian must never forget that the atheists and their fellow travelers in the ACLU (*aka* the Anti-Christian Liberties Union), the PAW and others stand against God and Christianity. By reading their publications one can learn what they really think of Christians. For instance, ponder this scurrilous little gem from the cover of *American Atheist* of August 1982:

“American religious fundamental-ism is not only an increasingly malignant threat to human dignity, intellect, and reason, but also one of the most calculated campaigns of demagoguery, hate, cruelty, greed, ignorance, persecution, intolerance, oppression, injustice, exploitation, and pseudo-Christian barbarity that has existed within the borders of a civilized nation.”

This effrontery is exceeded only by their arrogance. They think your child may have suffered abuse if taught at your church about the negative evidences against evolution as cited later. Read the words of two Auburn University professors:

“Should it now become possible to succeed in court with wrongful education suits when the gravity of what is alleged is tantamount to child abuse? This brings Christians face to face with the toughest of all commandments to obey, “Love your enemies.” One must weigh the consequences of enjoying a brief therapeutic rush of adrenaline by hating back. In any case, these anti-Christian bigots remain your enemies and someone must engage them. Since about

90% of all media people are also evolutionists, one cannot expect help from that source.

Evolution is Built Upon Lies!

Every so-called scientific fact in support of the general theory of evolution from such scientists is not testable-repeatable. Weigh what they say with the dictionary definition of a fact: (1) A real occurrence, an event (2) Something having a real demonstrable existence.

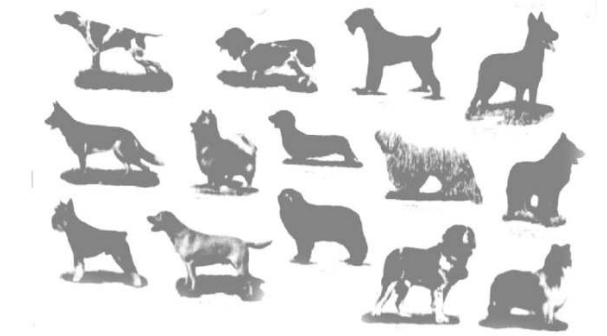
The famous evolutionist, Richard Lewontin had this to say about lying: *“Scientists, like others, sometimes tell deliberate lies because they believe that small lies can serve big truths.”* The reader is asked to test every statement they read from an atheist about evolution with one or more laws briefly explained in later lessons. If it violates one of them, they are lying. Ignorance is no excuse.

“Creation is unscientific and evolution is science.” Variation of this lie abounds in the rhetoric of the evolutionists. Creation by God supports every one of the laws and principles of science cited later. Evolution violates every one of them. Evolutionists are naturalists and insist that the present natural laws of chemistry and physics can explain the origin of the universe in defiance of the present laws. Creationists accept the present laws as valid for present operations and contend that these laws predict a Transcendent Power that used creative processes, not present noncreative processes, to bring about the origin of the universe, life and man.

Two Kinds of Evolution

The next thing to remember about the evolution-creation debate is that evolution comes in two flavors, micro and macro. Microevolution is actually observed, for

example, as variation within a species such as the many kinds of dogs. No one disputes that dogs have descended from an original pair of dogs. But evolutionists deceitfully pull the bait and switch game. *“If you believe in microevolution,”* they say, *“you must also believe in macro-evolution.”*



One must realize that each of the specialized dogs has been selected artificially by man for certain traits such as size. It will have less genetic information and is less complex than the original pair. As such it is potentially less able to survive in nature than the original pair. Does this sound like “survival of the fit?” More, not less, genetic information is required for particles-to-people evolution. Microevolution is thus a dead end for the macro-evolutionists. Indeed, macroevolution means that the original pair of dogs descended from some other kind of creature, which arose eventually from nonliving chemicals. This extrapolation from what is actually observed is in dispute by vast numbers of highly trained scientists, not just Bible believers. This kind of evolution has never been observed and disputes many basic laws of science as well. Since evolution cannot be seen but only imagined, scientists know nothing certain about evolution.

Evolution 101 — by Jolly F. Griggs

Lesson 2

We have learned that micro-evolution is an undisputed fact of science. Macroevolution though is a highly controversial metaphysical belief that involves unnatural, speculative processes, outside the domain of physics and chemistry. Religion is also a metaphysical system, outside and beyond the domain of physics and chemistry. Since both macroevolution and humanists deny the role of God in the creation of the universe and Christianity affirms it, both systems of belief are metaphysical and equally religious.

Robert Browning, the English poet, understood this when he wrote, *“We first find that great things are made of little things and little things are lessening until at last comes God behind them.”* The poet meant that the laws of physics and chemistry can explain the present *operation* of the cosmos but cannot explain its *origin*. Most scientists reject the poet’s choice of God as the First Cause in favor of their own metaphysical system of macroevolution, laws of science notwithstanding.

Schools Pick Winners in Religion

It is noteworthy to observe that there are religious systems today that embrace macroevolution or that the world is self-existent: Buddhists, New Age, Hindus, atheists, pantheists and all other non-Bible-based religions. They all view the cosmos as self-existent. Carl Sagan, the world-famous astronomer stated it as, *“The cosmos is all there is, ever was or ever will be.”* This means that the cosmos is eternal, without beginning or end. Now that Dr. Sagan is on the other side, he really knows for sure if the cosmos is *“billions and billions of years old.”*

The government schools teach macroevolution dogmatically, exclusively and without dissent. Therefore, they sanction and

endorse all religions of the world, including atheism, except those based on the Bible. In other words, our government is picking winners in religion in spite of the protection given religion in our First Amendment.

Teaching Creationism Not Needed

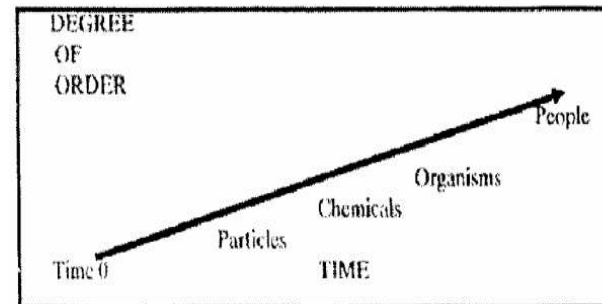
Teaching scientific creationism in our public schools, not the Bible version, would be an acceptable alternative model of origins. The preferred solution would be simply teaching *all of the scientific evidence, both positive and negative*, about macroevolution. In spite of the unconvincing assumptions by the evolutionists that the earth is billions of years old and that macroevolution actually happened or is even possible, there is no empirical proof for it.

This writer has offered over the years a reward of \$10,000 to the person who can provide empirical proof for macroevolution. No scientist has ever come forward to file a claim. This is not surprising but it does dramatize just how little hard scientific evidence there is in support of macroevolution. However there is a wealth of scientific evidence that refutes macroevolution. A summary of several evidences will make the point.

1. The Law of Cause and Effect declares that every effect requires a competent cause and the effect cannot be greater than its cause. Nothing, for instance, cannot be the cause of something as postulated by Big Bang advocates. A person is a living, feeling and thinking effect and must have been caused by at least a living, feeling and thinking cause. No cause other than parents has ever been observed to produce offspring. Parents of one kind have never been observed to produce offspring of a different kind. Lifeless chemicals cannot cause the greater effect of a living cell that in turn causes millions of even greater effects to cause people. This one law of science, not a speculation, is sufficient to nullify all speculation about evolutionism. But there is much more.

2. The First Law of Thermo-dynamics declares that the matter and energy of the universe is constant. This means that the processes of science (physics, chemistry, etc.) are non-creative and non-destructive and cannot explain their own existence. These processes can neither increase nor decrease the matter and energy content of the universe. We observe the vast effect of matter and energy in our universe but no competent cause for it. This law demands an Uncaused First Cause not bound by the laws of science to explain the origin of matter and energy unless, of course, the universe is eternal and did not need a cause as claimed by the evolutionists, atheists and the non-Bible-based religions of the world. The graphic below pictures the First Law superposed with the idea of macroevolution.

The horizontal parallel lines



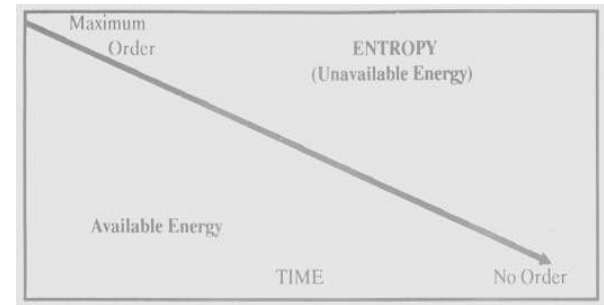
represent the unchanging quantity of matter and energy of the universe. The upward diagonal line represents the assumed increase in order and complexity in the universe by evolutionary processes. If evolution is true, time’s arrow points upward.

3. The Second Law of Thermodynamics disputes the point that the universe may be eternal or self-existent or that order and complexity of natural systems increased via macro-evolution.

This law declares that every energy transformation (applying the brakes on your car, for example) will result in a loss of some energy

in the form of heat. This heat radiates out into space to be lost forever though not destroyed in compliance with the First Law. This means that the universe is running down like a spring-wound clock. It is becoming less ordered and complex and eventually will reach a state of equilibrium when all of the stars turn dark and when all energy in the universe will be at the same low level. The universe will have suffered a heat death. This law demonstrates that the universe is degenerating downward, becoming less orderly and not evolving upward as claimed by the evolutionists.

The following graphic shows the Second



Law (diagonal line) superposed over the First Law (horizontal lines). The Second Law clearly shows that time’s arrow points downward, not upward as evolutionists claim. Both cannot be true.

Equilibrium has not arrived, so the universe is not dead and cannot be eternal. It must have had a beginning. Since it had a beginning and could not cause itself according to the First Law, a transcending metaphysical process must have caused it. At least, the God of the Bible is a possibility. Why, then, should our government schools endorse the beliefs of the Buddhists, Hindus, pantheists and atheists that the universe is eternal or self-existent to the detriment of the Bible-based religions?

***** THIS PULL OUT SECTION IS FOR YOU TO PLACE IN YOUR BIBLES *****



THE VALUE OF A \$ 20 BILL

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill? Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

"Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

"We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless."

- TAPE REQUEST FOR Vol 1 & 2 - 2007**
1. # 29 - Marriage takes Word
 2. # 181 - Marks of a Cult
 3. # 50 - Learning Obedience
 4. # 192 - Mountain of the Lord's House
 5. # 55 - Love of God - Grace # 1
 6. # 55 - Love of God - Grace # 2
 7. # 54 - Love in Child Rearing
 8. # 234 - Love and Obedience
 9. # 64 - Love in the gospel of John
 10. # 64 - Love in the Synoptic Gospels
 11. # 263 - Loving God
 12. 196 - Love

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The A - Z of Friendship A Friend....

- (A) ccepts you as you are
- (B) elieves in "you"
- (C) alls you just to say "HI"
- (D) oesn't give up on you
- (E) nvisions the whole of you (even the unfinished parts)
- (F) orgives your mistakes
- (G) ives unconditionally
- (H) elps you
- (I) nvites you over
- (J) ust "be" with you
- (K) eeps you close at heart
- (L) oves you for who you are
- (M) akes a difference in your life
- (N) ever Judges
- (O) ffers support
- (P) icks you up
- (Q) uiets your fears
- (R) aises your spirits
- (S) ays nice things about you
- (T) ells you the truth when you need to hear it
- (U) nderstands you
- (V) alues you
- (W) alks beside you
- (X)-plains things you don't understand
- (Y) ells when you won't listen and
- (Z) aps you back to reality

A friend is someone we turn to
 When our spirits need a lift,
 A friend is someone we treasure
 For our friendship is a gift,
 A friend is someone who fills our lives
 With Beauty, Joy, and Grace
 And makes the world we live in
 A Better and Happier Place.