

Life Begins... Not

The question as to when life begins has been prominent in recent times in many areas of human activity and administration. It has become a political issue as well as a religious one. Medical, moral, domestic and social areas have also been involved.

For what it is worth I would like to present a view that rests purely on observation and what we might call “intelligent logical thinking.”

Let me start from a premise that life does not begin at all. Life is there and cannot be introduced or created. Life comes from life. There has to be life to produce life. Life has no beginning. Life does, however, take on different forms according to the vessel or “body” that is alive.

The question as to whether life begins at conception, or at birth, or at some stage in between becomes irrelevant once we can “see” that life was there before conception. What happens is a process of transmitting life from one form to another by the natural means of reproduction.

Let us start from what we already agree with. For the human form, we know that a new-born baby can only happen if there is sexual activity between an adult couple.

Now the question is: are sperms alive or are they dead?

Sperms are obviously “alive.” They are already alive before they enter that special place in the female form.

So there is already life before conception. If the sperm is not alive, there will be no baby.

The objection here might be to say that a sperm alone will not create a new life. But what is really meant is that without the union of a sperm with a female cell a new form will not be created or produced. Life is already in the sperm and indeed also in the female cell, for it too has to be “alive” in order to produce the new form. Of course it goes without saying that the “form” produced will be of the same shape etc as that of the “parents.” But that is not in question here.

Now, if the sperm (or the cell) is alive before their mutual union, the question becomes: when does the sperm become alive? The sperm does not become

alive at any time either. Semen comes from the blood which is itself alive. All cells in the living body are alive. And each does its work according to its function and nature. When cells die, they get eliminated by the host body.

Just how life works is of course a mystery that we can hope to understand only very superficially. But we can observe that everything living is alive – is has life. Also we can observe that only “live” things can reproduce living things. Dead things (normally called dead matter), do not, cannot and will not give rise to life.

So to continue our observation of life transference from one body to another, we have seen that the blood is alive and the semen which the body manufactures from the blood is therefore also alive. In the same way the blood is manufactured from the nutrients in the body which are ingested as food – these must also be alive!

When a human eats an apple, that apple becomes a nutrient, and some part of it may well end up as the sperm that will one day bring about another human form. But the apple is alive too. To be sure it is quite a different life form. But it is alive. As is also the tree from which the apple was picked. And so the life “cycle” really has no beginning. Life does not begin at any point in time or space or thing. It just takes on different forms according to a process.

Different forms of life of course have their own peculiar modes of expression, movements, time span, etc.

The apple on the tree cannot speak as we humans do, it can just look rosy there on the tree and move with the breeze. But it is alive. It has a life cycle and a life span. It too came from its mother, the tree, which is alive.

If a pig eats the apple, that same apple may well be the nutrient for the sperm that will one day be a new piglet!

We don’t have to postulate or speculate about the origins of life or even try to replicate the primordial conditions using chemicals at various temperatures and pressures. This viewpoint indicates that life did not “begin” nor was it instantly “created”. It just is there and has no primal cause or beginning. Looking for a beginning is only a limitation of our

own mind and understanding, a bit like trying to find the edge of space.

Observation should show us that life has its own force, its own momentum, its own urge to come forth, to express itself in all sorts of ways. Just look around you in spring!

This view makes redundant the idea or the problem of a separate “soul” which enters and leaves the body. Nothing separate or independent of life does anything or goes anywhere. The life which is there already moves and expresses itself in the new body with its new facilities and functionality.

We are not individuals. We are just part of life. We are never separate from life. And in being part of life we are the whole of it, just like a bit of the apple is apple. That may be what is meant by some people saying that God is one, not many. God is not separate. Nothing is separate. Everything is connected. We make a great mistake when think “this is my life,” “I have a life.” I am in control of my life. That is the beginning of suffering and pain. It is the rebellion of Lucifer, it is the original sin or mistake.

Not only the gross food that we eat is alive with the potential of transmitting life into a new body, but also the air, the water and the sunshine that we ingest have the same potential. Thus, water, air and fire also are alive, and indeed there may well be beings whose body consists of only these elements. Rivers and oceans are alive. The wind, the tornado, the hurricane, are alive. The sun is alive.

If we look carefully, then, we see that life is all around us, and that there really is not much that is not alive, although it may appear that way at first. The medical experts will tell us that not all the cells in the body are “alive” and that not all the nutrients we ingest are alive. Similarly, the scientist will tell us that the larger portion of the earth’s composition is dead matter. And the astronomer and physicist might tell us that the vast majority of planets appear to be lifeless, and so on.

If we look at “life” in this way we might have more respect for plants etc., and not think that we are the creators of life, or that “this is my child, see I have produced it”! I am sorry ladies, you do not create life. You are, however, blessed, you might say, with the faculty of being able to carry life in a most unique manner.

And you, men, just be careful of feeling proud for your children. All you did was have a good time in bed! You have no say whatever in what comes out. Naturally, the form of the offspring might just resemble you a little, but you have really nothing to do with the life which is expressing itself in the body of your children. They are in fact not your children, and you should never claim them to be. But again, because we live in a civilised society, we might feel grateful that we are given the privilege of taking care of the young until they are able to look after themselves. But they are never “ours.”

However, if we were to use our intuition (or creative intelligence, if you like), we might cognise that every “body” has some dead matter in it as well as some “live” matter. In this way, may it not be that what we call dead matter – ie minerals, chemicals, etc. – are just the dead cells of the body of the earth? An earth which is alive nonetheless, and has its own life cycle, its own breath, its own lifespan and its own destiny, if you like. Does not the earth burgeon with life? Does it not breathe each day and night? Does it not move, change and have its being?

On that scale, of course our own bodies might be just like dead cells in the body of the earth.

If we expand the scale further, may it not be that whole universes are live bodies each with its own time scale and purpose for living. In this case whole planets might be just dead cells! And so it never ends. The only constant is life itself. Existence and being-ness seems to be the ultimate unfathomable factor. And we are part of all that. We are blessed with being and with life. We are life!

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