

THE MAGICAL PUZZLE OF LIFE

I'm retired, and every morning, weather permitting, I walk to a shop for a newspaper, either along the Trans Pennine Trail, surrounded by plants of all kinds or on the road, with many things created by human beings. The total distance I cover each day is only around a quarter of a mile, but it's a good start to the day for an octogenarian.

I mention this because it was only last week that I realised that what I was looking at presented me with **a great puzzle**.

When I went down the trail or on the road, I found myself looking and contemplating the wonders created by both PLANT AND ANIMAL life, which made me investigate both and identify my great puzzle. I started by looking at them both in a special way.

PLANT LIFE

What I've called a puzzle has caused me to look closely at the plant life I've been passing for years. There's lots of it: trees, shrubs, grasses, and berries of all kinds, each growing and each year doing their best to ensure they'll have offspring, using pollen and seeds they produce.

There are hundreds of different plants in our countryside, but it made me remember how DNA controls how each species grows into the same plant, with the same type of stems or trunks, leaves, and sometimes flowers.

All life, including plants, has DNA in most of its cells. It's the master plan for all life on earth. It controls how each cell grows into what it should be and sometimes can evolve.

From the information I could gather from the Internet, I am sure that in very simple terms, DNA is a set of instructions that each cell obeys in a specific sequence at a specific time so that a desired form will be created.

To me, this is like a knitting pattern or music score. If the instructions in a knitting pattern are obeyed, using the specified needles and wool, the desired garment will be produced. If a music score is followed, using the correct tempo and required musical instrument, then the melody or tune the composer wishes will be reproduced.

Thinking about these made me realise that the human beings who created knitting patterns and music scores only did so because they had a PURPOSE and only intelligent beings create things for a purpose.

I believe DNA does this. It produces the living organism intended by its instructions, so DNA must have a purpose.

I sat down, looking at the plants in my garden, knowing I was looking at miracles. How could a plant know which instructions in its DNA to access, when to access them, how to interpret them and then to execute

them in the required way and sequence to produce the plant in question? This still puzzles me, but it's not the great puzzle I originally mentioned.

The other important thing I began to realise is that plant life is necessary for the survival of all life. It provides materials for animal life to make things, medicines, and food, and most importantly, it takes in carbon dioxide and produces oxygen, one of the ingredients needed by all life.

Great forests around the world produce the oxygen that is needed to support life in our atmosphere. The great oceans are made up of oxygen and hydrogen and take in oxygen from our air.

In simple terms, I'm sure that if there was no plant life there would be no animal life; no life at all. I could be wrong, but it seems to me that DNA is the master plan for all life on earth, especially human life.

ANIMAL LIFE

I then looked at animal life and had similar feelings when walking down the street for my newspaper. All around me were things that had been thought of, designed, and created for use by human beings, other animals, and even plant life. They all had a purpose.

There are roads, railways, houses, shops, garden walls, tools, communication devices, vehicles of all kinds, flying craft, even those which can go into space, and many others.

Animal life also uses DNA in a similar way to plant life, but here is where **I FOUND MY GREAT PUZZLE.**

We're told that DNA started in simple cell-like forms, then over billions of years, evolved into the plant and animal life we see today. I asked myself, 'Why can only human beings think of a need, design something for that need, create it, and use it? No other animal, within the animal kingdom, can do this. This thought made me ask, **WHY ARE THERE NO ANIMAL LIFE FORMS THAT ARE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN HUMAN BEINGS OR HAVE SIMILAR ABILITIES':**

**WHY HAS ONLY HUMAN LIFE EVOLVED WITH INTELLIGENCE FAR GREATER THAN ALL OTHER LIFE FORMS?
THIS WAS MY GREAT PUZZLE.**

No matter how I thought about this, the only answer I could come up with was that there must be a purpose for it, and looking at human life, only an intelligence greater than it would have one.

Although it was a puzzle, it didn't stay one for long. A greater intelligence than a human being could only mean God, and we know

from other articles in this series what his purpose for creating human beings is; it's for them to obey his covenant so that their souls gain the wonders of living in heaven with him for all eternity when we die.

A GREAT PUZZLE EASILY SOLVED.

GOD HAD TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO LIVE IN, hence the universe containing our one galaxy among billions, and our solar system, with the formation of life using DNA, which enabled plant life to form, producing the oxygen all life needs.

What a great God we have. His design of our existence can only be described as masterful, but isn't that what God is, all loving and masterful?