

WHAT I THINK ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS – PART 1

by L. E. Granlie, written at age 16

Before the beginning of everything, there was nothing . . . Absolutely nothing. There was no sun, moon, earth, nor any living creature. There was nothing at all (only God, as some believe even today).

Everything must have a beginning, but no man, however wise, knows how the world began. I believe the beginning of everything was only tiny molecules of air. Where they came from I do not know, but I believe the whole mystery of the world's beginning would be solved if we could discover where air originated.

These tiny molecules of air were composed of what man calls today nitrogen, oxygen, argon, and carbon dioxide. They were the first material things and man later named them "chemicals." In hundreds of years, through the changes of these chemicals, an active burning mass was formed. Through these various changes, a gaseous nebula was created.

Because of the uniting of hydrogen and oxygen in these chemical actions, water vapor was formed. Rock and inorganic ash resulted and because of the intense heat, large masses of flaming rock shot forth from the whirling nebula and became "planets," the "sun," "moon," and "earth," as man later called them. The earth alone, was 8,000 miles in

diameter. Because of the heat and chemical changes, a power similar to a magnet held the bodies in certain places in relation to each other. The earth, because of this attraction or magnetic current, revolved around one of the large flaming bodies which man, hundreds of years later, called the "sun." Thus, the sun, moon, earth, and all the heavenly bodies were held in place and the molecules of air continued to circulate around them. One molecule of air knocked continually against another, and so on and on, until their movement was so rapid that man called it "wind." In the course of many years, the hard substance (rock) of which the earth was comprised, was so worn by these movements that it crumbled to soil, and water settled upon it in bodies, not yet called oceans, lakes, seas, etc.

Certain other substances also were formed by chemicals uniting and these were called "gold," "iron," etc. Only in the center, did a burning, gaseous nebula remain, causing eruptions and volcanoes to take place.

Thus, was the earth formed. But how did life come upon this earth?

Some believe that a tiny cell from the air came upon the earth and others say that a meteorite carried germs to the earth or that the soil was composed of germs. This is all very well to guess at, but then where did the germs originate in the very beginning?

It may be well to say here that I have always been greatly interested in science and now at the age of sixteen, have read extensively and studied evolution, etc, until I have established some ideas of my own on the subject. I believe that in the chemical action of

the chemicals and their by-products, resulting in the formation of the earth, a substance formed by nitrogen and its relative by-products, combined with water and formed a tiny cell. This cell was the first LIVING THING.

It absorbed oxygen from the air and received the sun's heat. This cell carried a tiny protozoa or minute plants. The life process carried on in what man later called the cell's "protoplasm" -- we later also, called "life."

Reproduction was carried on by these living cells, and each time improvements were made in the offspring. Some found favorable conditions in which to live, and with the passing of a century, the life-process of the simple protozoa heightened until many-celled animals sprung up. The tiny cells that did not find favorable conditions remained one-celled or died, and the offspring could not build up cell upon cell with a deficiency in sunlight, oxygen, or water. Therefore, they remained thus. Now and then in the generations, a great number of improvements were made. From these cells, grew tiny worms and insects and these, in turn, produced many more insects. In hundreds of years, a minute animal -- or lower animals like the paramecium, amoeba, hydra, or sponge -- could by sexual or asexual reproduction under favorable conditions, grow to be a fish, reptile, mice, etc., in time. Mice could, in turn, by improvements in reproduction, grow to become bats; bats would acquire wings and other improvements and become birds. From these birds would grow larger fowls. Reptiles would, in turn, produce more reptiles and in the course of a hundred years would have adapted themselves to environment by walking upright.

These four-legged animals reproduced and gradually some of their offspring took the form of the kangaroo and finally the ape. The former front-legs of the animal now served as arms to aid in food-taking. Apes or monkeys had fairly developed and efficient nervous systems, as a result of the continued improvements, and their instinct to mate with one better than themselves. This nervous system aided them in their life processes so that in many ways they controlled their surroundings. They devised diverse methods of escaping heat and cold. Therefore, the succeeding generations were marked by a slow disappearance of the hairy covering of their bodies. The nervous system was built up so remarkably that man is as he is today.

All through this process - from a tiny cell to the many celled animals called "man" -- the life processes were carried on in every organism by cells. Man termed this "life," and discovered that oxygen, sunshine, food, water, sleep, and exercise were necessary for the cells to carry on their work. Defects in these requirements, especially that of wrong food, created a condition which man called "disease." This often led to causing the cells to cease their life-processes and was called "death."

I believe it is queer that all living organisms grew to fear death. It is nothing but the cessation of life processes and the undoing of all that the cells have done in "this thing called life." The substance in the cells of which we are composed returns to the earth and other organisms obtain nourishment from it. Thus, materials of which we have been composed often make up parts of the living cells in the body of another. Death is

no more fearful, mysterious, or supernatural than life, even less...

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There is no cause ... sorrow on one's death, ... by the cessation of friendship ... believe it is equally foolish to be buried in expensive coffins. For my pa... as soon be lowered two feet under ... as I am, to slumber with the fragrant ... that I sprang from, and to lie in my ... under the roots of the flowers that I could fertilize by what my cells were composed of. Death is more to be looked forward to than feared!

I have now traced the progress of living things, as I believe it to have been from a tiny cell. True, man is foolishly ashamed to admit he has descended from a monkey. However, I believe it is wrong to scoff at Darwin's theory this way because monkeys ARE our immediate ancestors only. We ...

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... He built ... made rough weapons... overpower his fellow animals ... that they could provide him ... his hunger or "clothing" for his body ... other animals had long ago discovered that if they deprived their brother animals or birds of their life they gave them food. Thus, the combat between the highest animal - man - and his ancestor species - the

lower animals – began until man made himself king through his higher intellect.

For instance, today, dogs and horses who have so long lived under the influence of man, have acquired a great deal of his intelligence. In a short time, I believe they are able to reach man's standard of intellect.

Primitive man also discovered that skins of certain animals wrapped about their bodies caused a pleasurable sensation of warmth. Thus, clothes originated. This creation was handed down in every generation until it was deemed unfit to wear no clothes. Gradually, a feeling of shame developed in one to be seen without clothes.

With the development of clothing, man grew to be ashamed of exposing the reproductive organs and to be ashamed of the beautiful processes of reproduction themselves. The feeling was created in passing on to each generation the custom of using clothes. Likewise, we would be ashamed today if we had no house to shelter us and to call our "home." Reproduction has been a beautiful impulse in every animal of the universe and throughout the ages of the world's progress. Whether the sperm cell fertilizes the female's egg cell or the process is performed by budding, it should be considered a sacred act. Reproduction alone is responsible for the wonderful world about us and it alone creates life. Women grew to be ashamed of their reproductive organs and trapped them in tight unhealthy clothing. Children were told fanciful, untrue tales of their birth instead of simply being told of the wonderful and natural process in the body of their parents. It is true that man ranks far below his kindred animals when he makes the beautiful and wonderful act of sexual reproduction a thing of shame. It is indeed

strange that we cannot express the cleanliness and sacredness of the sex functions, which has beautified all nature and alone created the world, instead of making it appear indecent or disgraceful. Certainly it has an ill effect on all offspring. This is all too clearly shown in the smutty evil-minded young boys of today who seem to regard it all as joke. Nature intended her men and women to find happiness in the sexual acts. There need be nothing unclean about it. It is glorious and beautiful! No one should ever think of it others. Therein lies the evil of clothing: the introduction of this thing man calls "shame." It were far better than man remained nude as his fellow animals. Far, far better!

Undoubtedly the guttural sounds -- which man as an animal first uttered to express what he later called feelings of fear, hate, hunger, joy, etc. -- were also improved with the passing of time. Man learned to form syllables into words which expressed what he wished to say. This was called "language." Then it was, that he gave a certain name to every object he knew. He called the things he ate his "food;" the furs he adorned himself with, his "clothing." The caves he lived in, he called "home." What each person did or thought, he called "character" and his brain, he called "conscience." These together constituted that inner self -- the "soul." His conscience made him able to distinguish between right and wrong. He named the groups of cells in his body and studied their functions. He called the essential processes of life, or the creative energy of the universe: "nature." He found that it was a conformity to a natural course, that it was not artificial, but normal, inborn, and essential. He named the atmosphere above him, the "sky." He named the sun, planets, sky, sod, light, heat, or energy, and countless things all

about him. He discovered that one of the earth's rotations around its axis caused the light of the sun to fall on one side of the earth while the other was left in darkness and called this "day" and "night." He determined that the revolutions caused the seasons according to the earth's position with the sun. These seasons, he termed "winter, spring, summer, and autumn." Another body, which he called the "moon," reflected the light of the sun -- and other constellations (groups of "stars") gave light at night.

Man also gave names to every individual, and today it is a custom for everyone to hear a name. Therefore, it is through this custom so long ago originated, that I bear the name "Lillie Elviné Granlie."

It would be impossible to enumerate everything man has named. In short, everything in the world has been named by man. Every generation passed the language on and every time it was altered. Thus, we have the different languages today.

Shortly after man had learned to speak, he invented the system of writing. Crude letters representing words were hewed in stoned or on mud huts, and later a sort of paper was made from plants. Later, this was improved and today thin sheets are made from wood for our tablets, books, newspapers, etc. By making many curves and loops, and by moving our hands up and down, we can write many words in a short while. Almost every country has a different way of writing. This very minute, I am enjoying a simple method of writing which has taken ages upon ages to bring into use -- and the origin of which may be traced from a simple cell to the gradual building up of man who discovered it.

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Through the invention of writing, came books. Man called this literature. The first literature was the Bible, which was a reflection of the soul of men at that time and ... of events which were supposed to have taken place in the very beginning ... science has ... allegory as ... Today ... world ... famous ... and efficient nervous system.

We study about people who have divided our day into hours, hours into minutes, and minutes into seconds. We study about discoveries man has made since he began to explore the vast earth on which he lives. New inventions were continually being made. Man crossed great bodies of water to different parts of the worlds. He marked off the equator, determined latitude and longitude, and named the bodies of water. Every division, continent, county, state, county, and town have been named. Pictures of maps were made to illustrate the position of these on the earth. The whole world has been explored and, on second thought, it is a small universe inhabited by tiny creatures who are all kin.

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From the beginning, there were different types of men due to the environment, and heredity from animals from which they sprung. ... the

human race was divided ... black, and red race, are ... Ethiopian, and American and learned ... that he might use them for food.

He has discovered what causes the defects of the cells in his body and found ways to cure it by medicine or otherwise. He has made great inventions, built commodious houses, established schools, planted trees, made roads, airplanes, trains, automobiles, wind mills, ships, etc; in short, he has made himself master and has grown farther away from nature. His progress is remarkable and was made possible only through a highly developed nervous system, which it has taken thousands of years to build up cell by cell from a tiny protozoa to the finished product: man.

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It was not long after man developed, which is currently estimated to be about 25,000 years ago, that he began wondering about his own origin. His intelligence was not as well developed then as it is today, and accordingly, he could not explain science. Therefore, he invented mythical tales, created gods and worshipped them -- or worshipped the changes in nature that he could not account for. Mythical tales were passed down from generation to generation about gods or a God who had created the world and its people -- also about gods who ruled over another world where the dead lived again. They established principles of right and wrong in their conscience, and believed this to be the laws of their gods.

With the passing of years, came gradual improvements in the nervous system, and after man began a study of science, he saw how

impossible were the things formerly believed. Today, the old religions have been discredited. One religion handed down literature and supposed relics worshipping several gods. Apollo was said to be the god of the sun, Pluto the god of the underworlds and so on. Another religion claimed one creator and preserver of the world, whom they call God. Jesus, another savior, is also worshipped as having the power of freeing man from all sin, while the Devil -- a god of evil -- dwells in the lower regions. These stories were credited, considered sacred, and deeply believed in. Houses called "churches" have been established to worship this God -- and religious literature, besides the original Bible, have been published. The belief in the creator called God "who has no beginning...

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...of the progress of our world today. The same principles of right and wrong in our laws could be preached for the purpose of moulding better men and women in the years to come -- that the mysteries in scientific, political, and economic life may be discovered for the benefit of the world. This system, I believe, in making youth see its duty in working for the welfare of the world by their upright souls, is a far better one than to preach a horrible after-life in hell as a punishment for not doing our duty as we should.

William Herbert Carruth so clearly expressed the different views in religion by this verse:

*“A fire mist and a planet
A crystal and a cell,
A jelly fish and saurian
And caves where the cave men dwell;
Then a sense of law and beauty,
And a face turned from the clod -
Some call it evolution
But others call it God.”*

I am one of those who call it “evolution.” (note - Belief in God came in later years)

I believe that, in time, every individual will have adopted a scientific view of creation in the beginning of the world. What will be the end of the world, is often a topic of much discussion. Whether the earth will someday lose its magnetic attraction -- shoot off into space, and burn or crumble away -- is unknown. Couldn't it be possible that as living creatures increase in the thousands of years to come, the food will become scarce and cause a depression so terrible as to extinguish all life gradually from this earth?

It is for the hundreds of future generations to solve, as the generations of the past solved for us. Therein lies that principle that I spoke of, of the religion of “Unknown Things.” Every generation would preach righteousness, purity of body and soul, to its youth, and would make them live up to investigating and solving problems still unsolved in life.

Truly life is very complex! For instance, people are said to be insane when they think, act, or talk in a way radically different from ours, and from the principle of what many call "right." How do we know that all the principles man has established -- and called right -- are right? Couldn't some things we term wrong, be right -- and our right, wrong? It has ever so often turned out that a radical believer, condemned by the world, has written his name in gold in the pages by promoting to the welfare of life.

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In spite of the wonderful progress man has made, there are many evils of civilization. By growing farther away from nature, he has added unnecessary life processes to his cycle -- like worry, for instance. Nature has levied a heavy tax on civilized man, and he pays too dearly for the luxuries he has. A single flower lives, and does nothing but carry on the process of photosynthesis, excretion, and respiration. When it dies, it has lived a carefree life. Man carries on his life processes, but these are made secondary by his great struggle for existence in this civilized world. His morals have become degraded, his life listless, and the glorious radiant health of superb man-kind has disappeared. Man is never at rest in life, and dies an early death. When he dies, he has also lived, yes -- but he has almost ruined the magnificent life built up in the thousands of years from a tiny cell!

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