

between the structural proteins, the enzymes, and the nucleic acids so they will function together as a living cell. Engineers designing computers are well aware of the need for compatible parts that communicate in a common "language." Who designed this compatibility into the component parts of the first biologic cell?

Scientists have three speculative though possible answers to these problems. The first answer is that life began by means of more simple precursor molecules that we know nothing about. While this is certainly possible, it leaves us with a new problem -- How? We need a new hypothesis and laboratory experiments to test it. The mystery remains.

The second answer is that the first tools (enzymes) may have been chemical catalysts such as clay minerals. Metal-bearing clays may have played a key role in the origin of life. This too is a possible answer, but validation must await successful experiments.

The third possible answer is that all three assembled components for life simply appeared at the same place at the same time. They somehow recognized each other, fell in love, and embraced. With biological life initiated and a plentiful supply of food and no competition, initial population growth would have been rapid. Once begun, biological life would be virtually impossible to stop. What are the chances of this scenario happening by random chance?

Listen to Robert Jastrow's answer:

According to this story, every tree, every blade of grass, and every creature in the sea and on the land evolved out of one parent strand of molecular matter drifting lazily in a warm pool.

What concrete evidence supports this remarkable theory of the origin of life? There is none.<sup>4</sup>

Many scientists believe that the statistical probability of the correct sequence of components and their correct assembly by chance is so small that it would not occur during billions of years on billions of planets, given that each planet was covered with a watery solution of the necessary amino acids.<sup>5</sup> Most scientists who believe in prebiotic chemical synthesis either believe that some presently unknown directive or selective process had to be involved or that life began through presently undiscovered channels.

Although life could have started on Earth as a result of random chance (accidents do happen), the present scientific evidence does not support this conclusion. A tornado may strike a junkyard and the