

Dear Edward,

Thanks for your note on Professor Benson. He is obviously a learned man who has delved deeply into the field of research on vision in various types of animals. His assumption is a popular one, held by evolutionists in general. That is, because the molecule that serves a common purpose in the physiology of animals is similar (not identical, mind you) therefore all life forms sharing that molecule must be related to each other. It seems so logical that to assume otherwise is unthinkable (even annoying!).

Professor Benson's reasoning is based on a scientific metaphysics held by faith. Not different from the theological metaphysics of Christianity (a system of thinking I am better acquainted than that of other religions). In the latter case a Creator is assumed, not without evidence, to exist. In the former such a Creator is dismissed from the outset, again not without a rational basis, as illustrated above. Nevertheless invincible proof of either position cannot be claimed. Therefore it is not unreasonable to say that both operate on faith to some degree.

At another level, it has long been held by evolutionists that morphology determines descent. Looking at the picture of a mantis shrimp, one could be excused for thinking that it is a descendant of the praying mantis we have on land which has somehow changed its physiology to adapt to a life in water. This is facetious, as the evolutionists will be quick to point out. It shows that the perpetrator of this piece of non sequitur does not know anything about, say, convergent evolution!

I am inclined to believe in the evidence of design by a Designer. It seems more logical to me, according to my interpretation of the weight of evidence. The other metaphysical view of mutation followed by natural selection is more difficult to follow logically. That is to say, that chance, given enough time, can create order and novelty out of chaos. A matter of faith, I would think, no matter the initial assumptions.

May I add that believing in a Creator does not prevent one from investigating the world around us. Vision is such a remarkable phenomenon that people are drawn to it, as evidenced by the great volume of work reported in the scientific journals and learned tomes. To believe in a Creator is not to opt out of being curious about the wonderful world we live in or to cease doing research in order to find answers to the basic mechanisms of how things function.

It is to think God's thoughts after Him.

Swee Eng