The Creator's Origin of Life - 10

According to the book of Genesis, the Creator of animal life in its great diversity, also took careful account of how their lives would be sustained. We see this when He is quoted as saying, “to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food” - Genesis 1:30.

And now, when we look to see where these animals find their food, regardless of what each kind eats, it all goes back to the “green plant.” In the study of living things, and how they interact with each other, an important part concerns food. A food chain exists within each group of organisms, as grasshoppers eating grasses, smaller birds consuming grasshoppers and hawks eating the birds.

Among these groups of organisms there is an interweaving of food chains into a food web. A hawk eats a rattle snake, the snake had consumed a mouse, and the mouse had eaten some seeds. Parasites occur in virtually all major animal groups and in many plant groups, with hosts as varied as the parasites themselves. Even after living things have died, another chain of organisms feeds on them. They perform a great service as tidiers up of the biosphere.

Holding up the entire food web are the organisms which supply the primary food source - somewhat like a primary industry supporting the economy of a district. That source is supplied by plants which convert solar energy into the chemical energy which is stored in the food they produce.

And so for the “green plant”, “we give thanks to the God of gods...who gives food to every creature - His love endures forever” - Psalms 136. This He has arranged by photosynthesis = “making with light”, which refers to the producing of food for the plant and oxygen for the atmosphere. Photosynthesis is in constant progress both in the waters, e.g., in algae, and on land in leafy plants.

The leaves contain chlorophyll, a pigment, which is a chemical that absorbs light. The colour of pigments arises because they absorb only certain wavelengths of visible light. Light of other wavelengths are reflected, which defines the colour. Sir Isaac Newton showed that a prism could break up white light into a range of colours.

Although he recognized that the spectrum was continuous, Newton used the seven colour names red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet - ROYGBIV - for segments of the spectrum. A leaf looks green because chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light while transmitting and reflecting green light. It just so happens that blue and red are the colours of light which are the most efficient in photosynthesis.

The chlorophyll molecule - see diagram - consists of 136 atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen with one manganese atom. It is organized into five carbon rings attached to a carbon chain. Instructions in the plant DNA oversee the formation of the chlorophyll, using the already provided enzyme, chlorophyll synthase which catalyzes (accelerates or promotes) the process.

It is impossible to imagine how such specialized chemical structures as these molecules could ever have occurred by random forces.