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## Only One Intelligence

By Elise L. Moore

The pirate and buccaneer William Dampier was the first Briton to make scientific observations on the Galapagos Islands. Dampier introduced the concept of species and subspecies in the first volume of his book *The Voyage to New Holland* published in 1703. Charles Darwin studied the writings of Dampier and quoted him while formulating the theories of natural selection published in *The Origin of Species* in 1859.

Today, William Dembski, a conservative Christian theologian, mathematician, and creationist is advancing the theory known as intelligent design instead of natural selection. Intelligent design theorizes that the extraordinary variety and complexity of creation indicates an intelligent creator rather than random selection is responsible for life and the universe.

In promoting his premise, Dembski ignores co-religionists' insistence that humankind began with Adam 6,000 years ago and that creation took place in seven calendar days. Such "creationism" arguments have alienated much of the scientific community. The intelligent design premise shifts the focus to consider the order and intelligent intent underlying creation instead of random chaos.

As a Christian Scientist, I've always felt a little on the outside of the creationism/evolution debate. In her writings, Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist, basically rejected both creationism and evolution.

Mrs. Eddy, who began publishing her in-depth Scriptural studies of Genesis in 1875, rejected the notion of creation as beginning with Adam 6,000 years ago. She called this the "erroneous theory of life and intelligence in matter" (*Science and Health*, p. 177). Taking the discussion to a higher metaphysical level, she added, ". . . the forever Father must have had children prior to Adam" (p. 267).

Christian Science doesn't consider Adam to be the first man. The Christ is. The Christ existed from the beginning as the creative Word of God (see John 1:1-3). While Jesus appeared in human form 2,000 years ago, the Christ or Word of God has always existed. So the first man is not Adam, but the forever Christ or divine idea of God.

Mrs. Eddy also rejected the literal view of creation as taking place in seven calendar days. Instead she declared that the seven days of Genesis 1 refer to "numerals of infinity" which "can never be reckoned according to the calendar of time" (Science and Health, p. 520), and the "evenings" and "mornings" of creation are "spiritually clearer views" of God (p. 504). Seven days represent the revelation of the nature of God and spiritual creation, rather than God concocting a material world and its inhabitants.

While Mrs. Eddy didn't deny the empirical observations made by Dampier, Darwin, and others, she pointed out the theoretical limitations. "Evolution describes the gradations of human belief, but it does not acknowledge the method of divine Mind, nor see that material methods are impossible in divine Science and that all Science is of God, not of man" (p. 551).

In this sentence, Mrs. Eddy stated her view of intelligent design. God is the first and only Cause. God is the infinite divine Mind or supreme intelligence creating and governing the universe. The laws of God, acting in accord with divine Principle, are unchangeable and supreme over material theories.

Christ Jesus was sent by God to preach, teach, and demonstrate these divine laws for all humankind to learn. These divine laws form the divine Science or Christ Science which is presented in the Bible and explained in Science and Health.

If intelligence or divine Mind is the Creator, then it stands to reason that what is created is thought. Men and women, indeed all the exquisite diversity of creation from the infinite to the infinitesimal, are ideas created by divine Mind. This premise is the foundation for Christian healing.

Mind is the Creator. Creation is thought and is spiritual rather than physical. The perfect divine Mind creates, or rather knows, perfect ideas, and maintains these ideas in harmonious relation with one another. God's divine design doesn't include sickness, sin, or death. The divine design is

harmony and health. Demonstrating these scientific premises leads one to Christ and is the essence of practicing the Christ Science.

I hope that the discussion of intelligent design leads thinkers to break free from old views of material creation-prepares them to consider the spiritual nature of creation and become more receptive to the Science of Christ. This would truly revolutionize the education of the world and advance the kingdom of Christ.

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