# BILLIONS of MISSING LINKS

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# FORETHOUGHT

"One cannot help but be in awe
when one contemplates the mysteries
of eternity, of life, of the
marvelous structure of reality."

—Albert Einstein

At a very precise moment nine months after conception, a hormone leaves the unborn child's brain. It travels across the placenta, enters the maternal circulation, and makes its way to the mother's pituitary gland. Although this hormone is a very complicated and convoluted chemical, its message is quite simple: *I'm ready, start the delivery process. My lungs have matured enough to breathe on their own, my heart is strong enough to assume control, my gastrointestinal tract is prepared to process food, and my brain is eager to start learning about the world. My ten trillion cells are poised to work together.* It's the unborn child, not the mother, who makes this decision. Then, the mother and child orchestrate the journey together.

This is not a spontaneous event. The mother's body began preparations the instant the sperm entered a selected egg. One might even argue that her body began preparing at puberty or even at the time of her birth. Her uterus, now enormously stretched to accommodate the growing fetus, is ready to squeeze down and push. The baby's head has been shifted downward with its arms at its sides and legs tucked in so that it can more easily pass through the birth canal. Only 3.5 percent of human babies present feet first or breech. The mother's breasts are engorged with food. Endorphins are flowing to help with the discomfort; hormones are giving her strong maternal

instincts. Her vagina has secreted a special glycogen to prevent infection. A connection between the pelvic bones loosens to help the bony portion of the canal expand. Every maternal instinct has been primed. Every system is focused on success.

At first, the contractions come slowly, as if the uterus were warming up, but they quickly crescendo to more frequent and forceful squeezes. A myriad of different chemicals and hormones prompt and support every action as billions of muscle cells work in unison to break the bag of waters, dilate the opening in the cervix, and deliver the child.

This journey is often cited as the most dangerous moment in a person's life. Indeed it might be, yet every aspect of the process is well-coordinated, prearranged, rehearsed for millennia, and designed to bring a new life into being. Even the seams in the baby's skull bones have not yet fused, so that its unusually large head will be pliable enough to make it through. As the process unfolds, the adrenal glands add a blast of stress hormones to help the infant cope.

The newborn child will not breathe until it has cleared the birth canal. Anything sooner would lead to certain suffocation. It also will not wait too long. Rising carbon dioxide levels and falling oxygen concentrations will prompt that first breath. Otherwise, there could easily be permanent brain damage. The old slap on the behind belongs to the cinema. The inner workings of every newborn know precisely when to breathe, how deeply to breathe, and how to clear the debris inhaled from the amniotic sac.

Moments before mother and child completely disconnect, the newborn receives a last-minute blood transfusion from the umbilical cord. The placenta, which has been purposefully storing nutrients for this moment, infuses extra nourishment. And there is evidence that the fetus sends some of its own stem cells into the mother's bloodstream. These newly discovered *microchimera* stem cells seem

to be purposefully left behind to help maintain the mother's good health. The child's survival might depend on it.

Every step is preprogrammed. Medical folks like to say they deliver a baby, but they mostly catch it. As the newborn takes its first breath, two tiny flaps inside its heart automatically close off a hole between the right side and left side of that organ, which then routes unoxygenated blood to the newly functioning lungs. A large blood vessel that connects the aorta to the lungs also automatically seals off. The artery in the umbilical cord shifts to servicing the new bladder. The placenta detaches on cue and follows the baby out. If it were to precede the child or detach prematurely, the consequences could be disastrous. Soon, the baby's remnant of the umbilical cord dries up and falls away. If any of these steps were to fail to occur or did not follow the right order, the human race would never have existed. They are a very complex, all-or-none phenomenon, an improbable collection of coincidences.

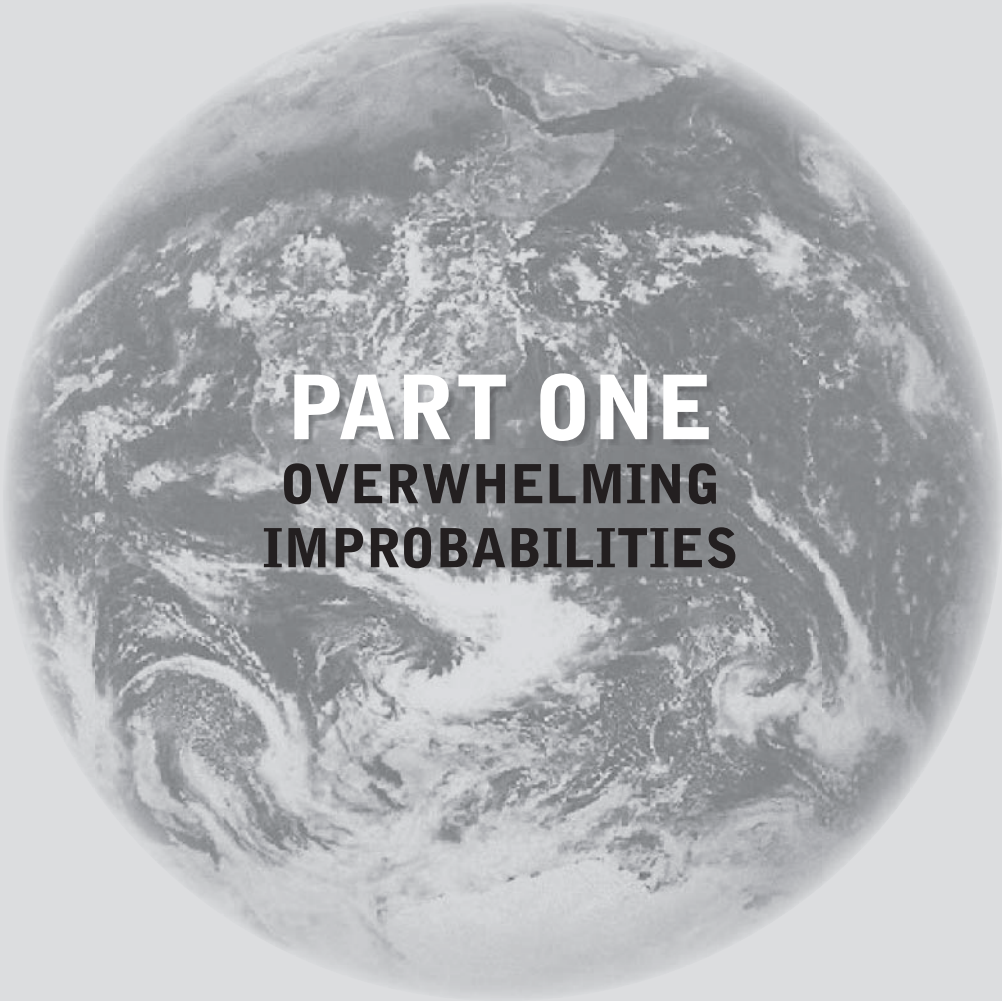
The baby arrives with a vernix coating to protect its skin. It also comes with a natural sucking reflex, and mother's first milk is purposefully loaded with all the right nutrients, minerals, vitamins, and a host of required antibodies. The newborn easily fits into the crook of its mother's arm, where the breast and nipple are strategically situated. It instinctively knows how to nurse—plus, it has a unique but temporary hump of high-caloric brown fat in its back, just in case. Lactation causes the secretion of natural contraceptive hormones that will suppress the mother's menstrual cycle. No need for a second baby to compete for mother's milk and threaten its survival.

This is the itinerary every one of us has to follow to travel here. Very specific and precise instructions have been passed down from generation to generation. The whole process is beyond complexity; it is an evolutionary impossibility.

If you steadfastly believe that these preprogrammed, constantly changing, and interdependent series of cellular events from conception

to birth could have come about by trial and error, survival of the fittest, or a series of extremely lucky accidents of nature, there's no need for you to read on.

If you should read on, continue always to ask yourself what could possibly have been intermediary, successful steps (links) beforehand.



# PART ONE
## OVERWHELMING IMPROBABILITIES

# 1. HOW SCIENTIFIC IS THE METHOD?

"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened."

—Sir Winston Churchill

Science and scientists should always seek out the truth no matter where it may lead. Scientific theories should always be open to intense scrutiny, repeated criticisms, and valid revisions, regardless of the source. Scientific thought should never assume the effect before proving the cause—or be a consequence of political correctness, religious fervor, or personal agendas. Students of science should always be ready to ask how, where, when, why, and sometimes who. And so it should be with every study on the origin of life.

Contrary to common belief, laboratory experiments have never scientifically proven Darwin's theory of evolution; nor have they proven Intelligent Design. It's very unlikely they ever will. Demands on supporters of Intelligent Design, however, to "scientifically" prove their position far exceed any demands placed on supporters of Darwin's theories. In fact, evolution scientists have been ignoring the tenets of their own scientific method:

Step 1. Observation

Step 2. Hypothesis formulation

Step 3. Prediction

Step 4. Testing of predictions

Most of academia insists that all experimental work follow these time-tested, time-honored, internationally-agreed-upon deductive rules to lessen mistakes and eliminate bias on the part of the experimenter. Many feel these rules should be the foundation of modern science. There are exceptions, of course—such as splitting a group of good-natured volunteers into sky jumpers with parachutes and sky jumpers without, to see which group sustains the worst injuries. Most exceptions, like this, are either too idiotic, too dangerous, or too obvious.



Darwin's theories should also be subject to the scientific method, yet there are no published experiments that clearly show one species naturally evolving into another species. Darwin essentially admits this in forgotten passages in many of his writings.

This is not about the faster rabbits escaping predators more easily or the breeding of different dogs into another shape, size, trait, quality, or look. Genetically speaking, a rabbit is still a rabbit, and the dog is still a dog. Survival of the fittest, on a short time line, is universally accepted. This is more about major transitions. No scientist has ever observed a natural collection of organic chemicals spontaneously linking up to form a protein, or thousands of different proteins, fats, sugars, and minerals combining to create a functional cell, or millions of different living cells fusing into a jellyfish, or a clam escaping its shell to become an octopus, or a fish evolving into anything remotely similar to an amphibian, or a frog transitioning into a lizard, or a bear developing a blowhole on the top of its head and an anus along its belly as it went for a millennium-long swim, or a monkey giving birth to anything humanoid. If Darwinian research cannot get past Step 1, then Step 4 can never be fulfilled. Even if fossils can be counted as Step 1, there are no proven transitional species—and therefore still no Step 4.

Beyond this, science often assumes our senses are truly reliable, our thought processes are completely trustworthy, our scientific

measurements are entirely accurate, and most, if not all, physical constants have remained unchanged for millions, even billions, of years. Yet no one can truly know this.

There is little argument over the principles of natural selection, the premise of survival of the fittest (loosely defined), the categorizing of fossils, or the occurrences of mutations. These rules belong to both the theory of evolution and Intelligent Design, as do simple experiments—such as discovering how the barnacle's glue works underwater, how a kiwi bird makes an olfactory map, that a giraffe is born with protective hoof coverings, how an arctic tern can fly from the North Pole to the South Pole (and back again), that a breed of pink dolphins exists near Hong Kong, and how the Pompeii worm can survive scalding water.

## TESTING AND PROOF

The scientific method requires the vigorous testing of any hypothesis. Since time machines have yet to be invented, scientists are left to their own imaginations and false realities. The infamous Urey–Miller experiment was one of these. A mixture of organic chemicals, presumably mimicking a primordial sea no one has ever seen, was subjected to electrical shocks. These "lightning strikes" produced a reddish, gooey tar that could not feed itself, defend itself, belch, hide, perspire—or mate with any other, heretofore-known gooey tar of the opposite sex. I would guess it was also hard to clean up.

One cannot prove Design, either. If you were to come upon an oil rig standing high above the water in the Gulf of Mexico, however, would you assume it happened by accident or by Intelligent Design? Design, of course—hands down. And so it goes with living beings, who are exponentially more complicated than all of the oil rigs in the world put together.

Professor William Dembski, nationally acclaimed author of *The Design Inference,* defines Intelligent Design as natural systems that cannot be explained in terms of undirected natural forces, yet exhibit features which, in any other circumstance, we would

**A Key Option in All Investigations**

Contrary to popular belief, *Intelligent Design is not merely a Judeo-Christian theory.* It belongs to every religion, every person, every living being. Also contrary to belief, it is not an alternative to "Science." Researchers still need to look under the hood. Students still need to know how a frog jumps, a bird nests, and a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. As Mark Cahill, author of *One Heartbeat Away* puts it, "You may find it hard to believe that God could make everything out of nothing, but the alternative is that nothing turned itself into everything." ID is an option that should always be discussed in the world of discovery.

attribute to intelligence. He points to the carved faces of four United States presidents—Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt—at Mount Rushmore. Given the natural forces of erosion, wind, and rain plus a rare push from a tectonic plate, it remains highly improbable, if not impossible, that Nature could have carved such likenesses.

One should apply similar logic to everything we see in Nature. This book will help explain why. When a species of animal or plant is too complicated to come about by chance, it must be caused by, created by, or guided by Intelligent Design (ID). One can argue, alternatively, that Design has occurred every moment since the "Beginning," or that the Designer merely made, and maybe revised, the rules.

In any case, modern scientists, despite public statements supporting newer Darwinian theories, are steadily disproving the theory of evolution. As they delve deeper into the chemical and biological sciences, the more complex and perplexing it is becoming. Ask any medical researcher how DNA, or more specifically our genes, came about, and you will more than likely get a shrug.

## REQUIRED STEPS

The term *missing links* is often used rather loosely, but in order to scientifically judge Darwin's famous theory there needs to be further clarification of what qualifies as a link. These are mandatory, intermediate steps. They can be as small as an S-ring in a bacterial

flagellum (tail) or one step in a long cascade of events to clot off a wound. Often, millions of steps—links—are needed to complete a process or move a species to a more complex level.

The Great Pyramid in Egypt is a good example of one step building onto another. Everyone agrees that this 450-meter-tall structure, the only surviving wonder of the ancient world, did not happen by accident. Two million limestone blocks ranging from 2.5 to 60 tons were mined and hauled from the Nile Valley. Construction could not have begun at the top and progressed downward or at the middle and outward. It followed a very elaborate architectural design. The newest level depended on the design, solidity, and security of the level or levels below. To be called a pyramid and function like a pyramid, construction needed to reach the peak. Notably, one cell of the human body is more complicated than this structure.

If, on the other hand, one expects written proof that a Designer did the designing, they will never see a Signature on the Job Order. If one wants to attend a lecture on "How I Did It," with the fanciest PowerPoint presentation ever, it isn't going to happen. If one wants an Invitation to observe the Watchmaker making his watches, it will never occur. Proof such as this will never happen.

**An Inclusive Theory**

Intelligent Design is not synonymous with Creationism. Every theory has different advocates, and those who believe in the literal interpretation of the book of Genesis are one of several supporting camps. Many ID proponents are not Christian; most believe the Earth is billions of years old; some believe dating methods remain flawed. This book is purposely written to argue on modern science's own playing field. Most, if not all, ID proponents believe that both the theory of evolution and religion's explanations are mostly faith issues. But there has been a very curious historical development. According to James Lovelock, author of *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth,* "Things have taken a strange turn in recent years; almost the full circle from Galileo's famous struggle with the theological establishment. It is the scientific establishment that now forbids heresy."

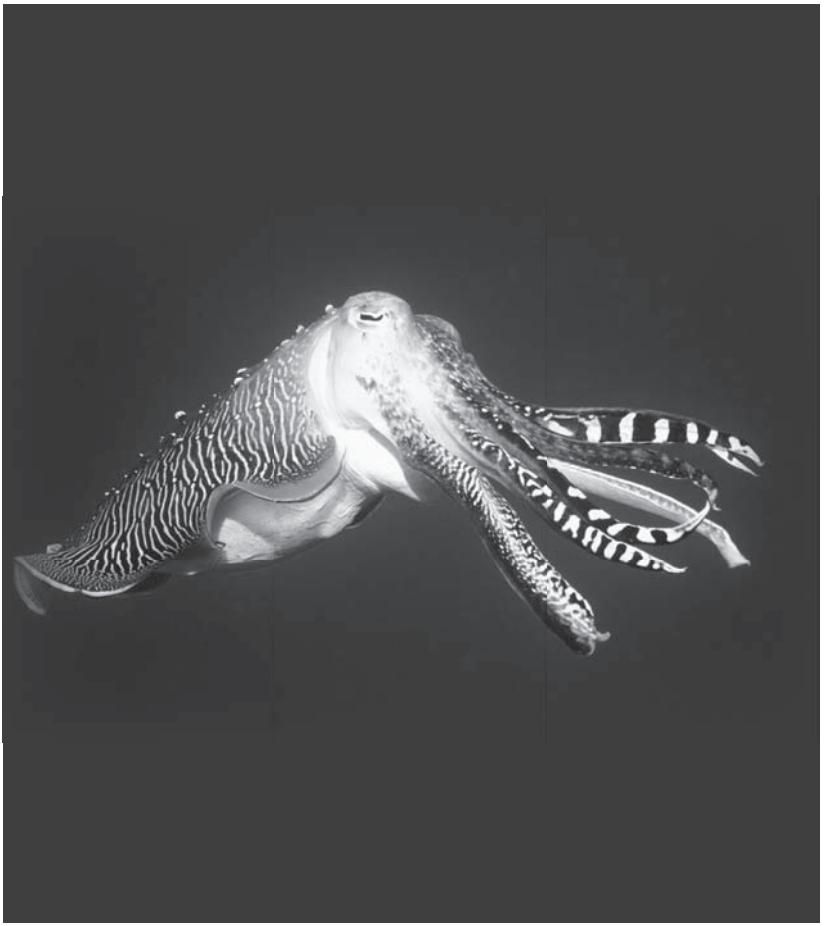
## NO EXPLANATION

How complex is too complex for the theory of evolution to explain? The adult blue whale has 100 quadrillion cells, and each cell has up to one billion chemical compounds. How fast is too fast to be an accident? Enzymes work within cells at a millionth of a second. The impact of light on the retina to create vision takes 200 femtoseconds. A femtosecond is a millionth of a billionth of a second. When does a complicated life cycle speak against chance occurrence or a lucky series of mutations? There are known parasites that require at least two unrelated and distant hosts to complete one life cycle. There are insects that depend on protozoa in their stomach to survive, which in turn depend on even smaller microorganisms attached to them for survival. How impossible should a body part be? The lens of the human eye has 1000 layers of transparent, living cells.

Or, how unusual should a living species be before it defies the tenets of evolution? There are six-foot-tall gutless worms that live at the bottom of the ocean, plants that maintain internal temperatures higher than most mammals, carnivorous sponges, warm-blooded moths, frogs, and turtles that can survive being frozen, microorganisms that live on sulfur (not oxygen), fish that hibernate on land, a family of salamanders that can survive in a refrigerated jar of water for at least six years, fleas that jump 150 times their length 200 times a day, a breed of near-blind river dolphins who never sleep and whose eyes migrate upward after birth, a cuttlefish whose tentacles can shoot out at an acceleration of 25G after hypnotizing its prey, a tsetse fly that has only one offspring, and an illuminated deep-sea fish whose anus migrates from its left side to the rear.

Might each one of these be a collection of improbable coincidences?

## CUTTLEFISH



Like many present-day species, the cuttlefish, whose tentacles can shoot at an acceleration of 25G and whose body can put on a hypnotizing light show to paralyze prey, has no clear-cut transitional ancestors.

*© Georgette Douwma / Photo Researchers, Inc.*[1]

All living beings, and millions of life-sustaining processes (eating, digesting, sleeping, drinking, healing, mating, reproducing, hunting…), must have had previous, simpler steps, all the way back to the beginning of life. This is not a linear chain, however, with a few missing links, like the drawing of a fish walking out of the sea and eventually becoming a man. Millions of genetic, chemical, and mechanical processes do not work in isolation; nor do they transition into new species in single isolated steps, as commonly found illustrations suggest. The overall picture evolutionary theory presents is more like a sky-high chain-link fence with more than a billion gaping holes. Or a trillion-dot Connect-the-Dots game with virtually all of the dots missing.

This book will show that the arguments supporting the theory of evolution are shaky at best, while nearly every aspect of science is compatible with ID. The fact that a frog can be dissected down to its minutest structure or thyroid hormone can be separated into amino acids in a research laboratory does not say science contradicts ID theory. The idea that a child will look like its parents easily supports ID-guided genetics or natural laws generated by ID. The fact that the strongest or fastest animals survive, the best camouflage works the best, the weakest die off, and mutations happen, is very compatible with Intelligent Design. Why wouldn't it be? The finding that a single fertilized egg the size of the period at the end of this sentence can develop into a seventy-trillion-cell being supports ID much more than it does Darwin's outdated theories.

*Modern scientific studies have not made evolution more believable; they have made it less believable.* There are exponentially more questions nowadays than answers. Scientific inroads into biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, ecology, parasitology, genetics, microscopy, and quantum mechanics (to name a few) have left the path of evolution littered with mud puddles, potholes, loose gravel, quicksand, detours, dangerous critters, and dead ends.

Based on the scientific method and the more than a billion missing links (and counting), one might argue that evolution no longer rises to the level of being a theory. Instead, it should be considered at most a hypothesis or, perhaps, just a proposal of historical importance.