

Number 5 is Alive

While waiting for a doctor's appointment I browsed through a National Geographic book in the reception area. The book was called The Incredible Machine. What I read fascinated me. An early chapter, "The Beginning of the Journey," described the process of conception – something embarrassing to talk about, especially in a devotional story. The chapter was very powerful to see God at work through the creation of human life. The book described how every function of the male and female in the conception process is perfectly designed and choreographed to create life. I never thought about the interrelationship of male and female in the way it was described in the book.



It was disappointing when my name was called to see the doctor, as I would have to stop reading the book. Can you imagine a person more interested in waiting room reading material than the actual appointment? Before leaving the doctor's office I went back out in the lobby to see the other major sections of the book. One was called "The Healing Within," talking about the body's innate ability to heal itself. Another section was called the "Stages of Life," which probably describes why I can't do the things I used to do.

We take our body and health for granted. Our body fights off colds and other diseases we are not aware have attempted to invade our bodies. What man-made machine could bleed to cleanse a cut, stop bleeding on its own, and then eventually completely disappear as the cut heals?

So, how did our body become so well constructed that nearly every part has a function and purpose. How do we see, hear, smell and feel what is around us? How is it that our eyes adjust as we move from darkness to light, or the reverse? How is it that my heart beats to pump oxygenated blood to my extremities, to keep me alive? How is it that I sneeze to rid my nose of irritations and cough to clear my throat? What causes that knot in my stomach when I meet my true love or proudly watch my daughter or son doing something significant?

What machine can make the adjustments the human body does? What machine can think creative, loving thoughts? Remember the sci-fi movie "Short Circuit" when a lightning strike shocked a robot into becoming a thinking, feeling machine. "Number 5 is alive," the robot said gleefully as he made his getaway from the computer that controlled his every action.

Lightning strike or big bang, a human being wasn't created by some accidental, natural force. If Number 5 *is* alive, it is only because God spoke the words to make it so. There is no other explanation that could create such an incredible machine.

Question: How do you explain the existence of mankind and its dominion over the other creatures of the earth?

Scripture: *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-28)*

Prayer: With our human limitations, it is hard to imagine how You created the earth and all living creatures merely by speaking. We know mankind doesn't have the power to create life. Our life and our bodies are gifts from you. Let us stop worrying about where we came from and instead, spend our time using the gift of life to help others. Amen.