

Human Embryogenesis as Theriogenesis

WHAT A WORK is man! How noble in stature! How cunningly wrought! But if the materialist scientist does not want to invoke an intelligent Creator to account for the surpassing marvel of the human physical body, he can only permit himself to inquire as to how the body works and attempt to track its morphological antecedents. Currently, the musical score and the maestro that directs the harmonious composition that is the human anatomy is the human genome—the 3.1 billion notes (letters) of human DNA that provide the template for all the structures in the 50 trillion-celled human organism.

And what is the source of the genome itself? Well, that's less certain. The fallback answer is it's the product of man's environment, initially working on several simple elements to chemically bond in ever-increasingly complex combinations until... voila, we have this anthropic wonder.

Max Heindel writes in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*: "Wisdom, wisdom everywhere! So grand, so great that one who looks with an observant eye is filled with amazement and reverence." He cites the cancellated bone of the femur as exceeding anything a civil engineer could conceive or execute.

Now, with sophisticated imaging techniques at our disposal, it is possible to view human development from the moment of conception, by employing microphotography and computer enhancement to generate extraordinary images, some of which are featured in the book *From Conception to Birth: A Life Unfolds*. *Time Magazine* presented a few of these pictures in a recent (Nov. 11, 2002) cover article. The pictures result from using sophisticated computer software to integrate two dimensional layers of information obtained by CAT scans and micro-

magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to create a three dimensional image. Now we have visual proof that the fetus is a viable human being earlier than formerly believed—not a happy finding for abortion proponents, whose emphasis has been on the potential mother, not on the forming child, which, though hidden, is no longer out of sight, and therefore not as easily put out of mind. And what a sight it is! Already at 32 days, when it is no bigger than a ladybug, the embryo shows a nascent heart and eyes.

These images not only confirm Max Heindel's assertion that "Even after several of the initial antenatal stages have been passed through, the experts cannot differentiate between the animal and human embryo" (*Cosmo*, p. 344). In fact, as the *Time* article relates and the accompanying image shows, at 40 days "a human embryo looks no different from that of a pig, chick, or elephant. All have a tail, a yolk sac, and rudimentary gills," a fact known for at least 150 years and indicated in the phrase, "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny." In this case, however, the development of the human is a structural retelling of the evolution of the entire animal development, from single-celled organism (zygote) to the fully formed human physiology.

Each of the 50 trillion cells comprising a human body is a microcosm, for within each cell's 26 nuclear chromosomes is contained a blueprint for the total man. As sixty billion Virgin Spirits (humans) are differentiated in God, so shall each of our cells eventually become independent beings in a Self-generated cosmos. So do we evolve from creature to Creator, from protoplasmic blob to God. While modern technology can be abused, some of its uses further reveal the wonder of life and give sensory corroboration of the awe-inspiring presence of wisdom, wisdom everywhere. □