MAIN SPEAKERS

Thoudam Damodar Singh. Manipur, India. Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry, University of California. GBC, and Director of Bhaktivedanta Institute.

Michael Marchetti. Boston, U.S.A. Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry, Georgetown University.

Richard Thompson. Boston, U.S.A. Ph.D. in mathematics, Cornell University.

David John Webb. London, England. M.A. in natural sciences, Oxford University.

Robert Cohen. Houston, U.S.A. M.A. in geology, Rutgers University.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

• Molecular Biology

The goal of scientific research is to find the absolute truth or cause of all phenomena, governing both life and matter. According to modern science, the ultimate cause is vaguely incorporated into certain physical laws — basically the laws of quantum mechanics. Conceptually, these laws involve only some pushes and pulls among particles. Although the theory of evolution asserts that these laws are sufficient in themselves to account for all the marvels of life, honest and intelligent scientists are beginning to realize that the theory is failing to explain many subtle aspects of life — for instance, love, meaning and purpose. How can simple pushes and pulls be responsible for all the wonderful phenomena that we encounter in life?

We would like to show that the recent announcement of Khorana's synthetic gene is not different from that of Wohler's synthesis of urea in 1828, as far as our understanding of life is concerned. In other words, a complex molecule or a combination of such molecules will not account for the true nature of life.

We propose that life is non-physical and non-chemical. It possesses consciousness and obeys higher order non-physical laws. This new scientific hypothesis can explain all the observed facts of life more scientifically than any of the previous theories.

• Information Theory

A fundamental proposition of information theory states that the information content of a closed mathematical system cannot increase. In modern science, nature is described by means of mathematical models of low information content. The physical structures of living organisms, on the other hand, are of such complexity and diversity as to indicate a very high information content. From this it follows that these structures could not have arisen by means of the simple natural processes envisioned in the theory of evolution. An additional source of information is required. The implications of this analysis regarding the origin of life are discussed.

• Quantum theory

Modern science has failed to account for consciousness, and in modern physics the existence of consciousness has given rise to serious paradoxes and contradictions. The quantum theory is discussed with special emphasis on the interpretations of von Neumann and Daneri, Loinger, and Prosperi. It is concluded that a new theoretical understanding is required containing provisions for consciousness. Such an understanding may be based on the description of the atomic living entity, or *atma*, given in *Bhagavad-gita*. This entails definite implications concerning the scientific study of life.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

on

LIFE COMES FROM LIFE

Sponsored by:

BHAKTIVEDANTA INSTITUTE

Founder — Acarya

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta

Swami Prabhupada

Current scientific theory holds that "life" is a product of molecular interactions, and that all the different activities of life — for example, thinking, feeling and willing — are due to coordinated chemical reactions. However, this approach has failed to explain the subtle aspects of life, such as value, meaning and purpose. A new scientific paradigm is, therefore, needed.

Bhaktivedanta Institute is sponsoring a scientific conference on the theme, "Life Comes from Life," to be held in Vrindavana, India on Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16. Scientists will gather from around the world to discuss fundamental questions on the nature and origin of life. The basic theme of the conference is that life cannot be reduced to a com-

bination of material elements. This will be discussed in the light of modern scientific theories and the Vedic knowledge. The members of the Institute hope that these discussions will provide new and stimulating insights into these important questions.

SETTING

The conference will be held in the historic holy city of Vrindavana, India. Vrindavana is located approximately 150 km southeast of Delhi and 50 km northwest of Agra. Lodging is provided in the International Guesthouse, situated next to the Krishna-Balaram Mandir, one of the most beautiful temples in Vrindavana. The meetings will be held next door in the newly opened Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and Institute for Higher Studies.

Meals are provided in the guesthouse restaurant. The menu features a sumptuous 10 to 15 course selection of traditional vegetarian dishes.

At this time of year the climate in Vrindavana is extremely pleasing. The sunshine during the daytime is quite mild. The surrounding neem trees are decorated with lustrous green leaves, and the dancing peacocks make constant appearances among the branches, thus pleasing the eyes greatly. The mild and cool breeze in the night carries the sweet sounds of kartals and bells, filling the atmosphere with a mood of serenity conducive to the minds of the seekers of real scientific knowledge.

PROGRAM

Friday, October 14.
- 7-9 AM Breakfast
- 9-12 AM Morning Session: The Fundamental Difference Between Life and Matter.
- 12-2 PM Lunch
- 2-5 PM Afternoon Session: Quantum Theory and the Laws of Consciousness.
- 6-8 PM Dinner

Saturday, October 15.
- 7-9 AM Breakfast
- 9-12 AM Morning Session: Demonstration by Information Theory that Life Cannot Arise from Matter.
- 12-2 PM Lunch
- 2-5 PM Afternoon Session: Chemical Evolution — A Molecular Fairy Tale?
- 6-8 PM Dinner

Sunday, October 16.
- 7-9 AM Breakfast
- 9-12 AM Morning Session: Darwin's Theory and the Past History of Life.
- 12-2 PM Lunch
- 2-5 PM Afternoon Session: Scientific Basis for the Study of Life.
- 6-8 PM Dinner

Each session begins with a short address by one of the chief guests of the conference. Then the lecture for the session is given, followed by an open discussion period dealing with the lecture and related topics.

For all invited guests, food, lodging, and transportation between Delhi and Agra and the conference site will be arranged free of charge.

I will be able to attend the First International Scientific Conference on *Life Comes From Life.* I expect to stay at the Krishna-Balaram International Guesthouse for:
☐ 1 day ☐ 2 days ☐ 3 days

I will need transportation between the conference site and:
☐ Delhi or ☐ Agra.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Telephone _____

Please send the completed registration form to Dr. Onkar Nath Sharma, the secretary of the conference, at the following address:

Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and Institute for Higher Studies
c/o Krishna-Balaram Mandir, Raman Reti
Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg
Vrindavana, Mathura
India