

The Abortion Argument, The Fertile Egg, and The Bible

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When I began writing an ebook on abortion, I found myself “*eyeball to eyeball*” with the fertile egg. Initially, I considered this “*a detour*” from where I wanted to go. But, with man’s invasion into its domain, and because it is the beginning of the human life line, I knew I had to start there. Even though a pro life advocate for decades, I had never really thought much on the fertile egg. After all, from my life science classes, I already knew what it was - *right*? Well, my “*review*” surprised me and I soon realized the abortion argument clearly begins with the fertile egg. So, ...

... The Fertile Egg: What is it?

The fertile egg is the result of a successful merging of an egg cell and a sperm cell. But there is something quite astounding about this union. The sperm cell is alive, but if left to itself, it is incapable of growing into anything else. It is also incapable of replicating itself. The same is true of the egg cell. Left to themselves, these solitary cells simply expire. They never progress past their form, and become inanimate 100% of the time. But once an egg and sperm combine, these two become one cell and burst into a phenomenally complex life form. With nourishment, time, and the absence of death, each fertile egg is on an unstoppable journey of becoming a unique, adult human 100% of the time. This is astounding. So it seems, at least in this sense, the fertile egg is infinitely more than the sum of its parts.

Some have called the fertile egg “*potential human life*.” Scientifically, this is an erroneous statement. It is not “*potential human life*” - it **is** human life. It is *nothing else* and it cannot become *anything else*. The fertile human egg is simply the earliest stage of human life. That is what it is. This is a simple scientific fact.

Some make an issue of the fact that the fertile egg is *in the womb* of the mother. Scientifically speaking, when seeking to identify what it is, its location is totally irrelevant. If a fertile egg is in a rock, tree top, or test tube in your refrigerator, that has no relevance when accurately identifying what *it* is. Furthermore, if that egg *derives its sustenance* from that rock, tree top, or test tube in your refrigerator, that is another irrelevant point when identifying what the fertile egg itself is.

But there is something even more basic about a fertile egg than what has been pointed out thus far. It is *living matter*. This may sound like a stupid scientific observation, but if we are going to identify what the fertile egg is, and its standing, this is a significant characteristic. Many things *are not* alive. In fact, most of the matter on our planet is not alive. Indeed, there may not be any living matter anywhere else *in the entire universe*. If all matter in the universe was weighed, and all living matter was weighed, the total weight of all living matter would be so infinitely small that it would not even show up as a speck of dust on the cosmic weighing scale. Therefore, the fact the fertile egg is alive is quite significant. It is *an exceedingly rare piece of living matter* in a world - and universe – *overwhelmingly dominated* by inorganic matter. What a massive understatement. So, what does this mean when analyzing what the fertile egg is? And, does this have any bearing on its standing in the world and universe?

The “Life Element”

The human body is composed of twenty-eight elements. None of them are alive. None of them even hint at having something alive about them. Carbon is not alive. Iron is not alive. Lead is not alive. Calcium is not alive. Arsenic is not alive. None of the other twenty-three elements that make up our body are alive either (For the record, scientists do not agree on the number of elements that make up our body. I don't know why. My guess is that some may assert lead, arsenic or some other trace element they consider contaminants or something). But it is error to say these elements *are dead* as that injects the thought that life is in some way connected with them. Organic chemistry is itself composed of elements that are, in and of themselves, *inorganic*. If we take all the elements of the human body, even in proper proportions, and put them together, all we make is an *inorganic* soup. Life, whatever it is, *is alien* to each of these elements. How *any* combinations of these non living materials come to life is a total mystery. This “*life element*” escapes the empirical scientist. *Something* is there, but whatever it is eludes the scientist’s grasp. That in itself is mysterious because life is so obviously present when it is there - and so obviously absent when it is not. In reference to the fertile egg, pro-lifers and pro-choicers *agree* it is alive and is on a one way path to adulthood unless stopped. Neither group has produced evidence as to “*what*” makes the fertile egg alive, nor *how* that “*what*” makes the fertile egg alive. Although many pro-lifers profess to know *Who* makes the fertile egg alive, this still does not answer “*what*” the stuff of life is, or “*how*” it animates innately inanimate materials.

Incidentally, if the fertile egg lacks some of the twenty-eight elements of the adult human, then this “*life element*” is an even more remarkable entity than I can imagine. That means *it attracts the missing elements* at the appropriate times, and quantities, in the construction of the body. How does it know what elements it needs? And how does it know when it needs them - and in what quantity? This “*life element*” is feeding on the inorganics around it. But it will disappear if it doesn’t get the right elements at the right times in the right quantities. *Too much* sodium, iron or calcium will result in the “*life element*” vacating the matter it is residing in - but so will *too little* of those elements. This is all just too astounding for a brain as small as mine to really comprehend.

The mystery of this “*life element*” poses a perennial problem for the atheistic Naturalist. It abounds all around us, and is even *in us*, but eludes us. The importance of such a capture cries out. *The Naturalist’s failure to nail this thing down has allowed the birth and growth of something they wish had never been born.* I will identify that “*something*” in a moment.

So, what is a fertile egg? Each fertile egg is a one-of-a-kind entity in all of past reality, present reality, and future reality. Each one is astoundingly unique and beyond replication. And it is an exceedingly rare piece of living matter. Scientifically, this is just the tip of the iceberg in describing the physical reality of *one fertile egg*.

So, What Is the Fertile Egg’s Standing in the World and Universe?

A person’s particular valuation system will dictate how one answers this question. This is an extremely important point. There are basically three broad valuation systems at work in the world. These form the base for one’s world view. It is from one’s *chosen frame of reference*

that one sets valuations on any given subject. These valuation systems go deeper than any particular governing system, and their competing values *are at the heart of all conflicts*. The three systems are Naturalism, Humanism and Theology. These three actually fall under two broad umbrellas - Physics and Metaphysics. Naturalism is under the Physics umbrella. Humanism and Theology are under the Metaphysical umbrella.

So, is the fertile egg “a person?”

With that question, we have now entered ... the abortion argument. Is the fertile egg, “a person?” There are three perspectives from which to examine this question - Naturalism, Theism and Humanism. So, let's start ... with you. I want you to put yourself in the shoes ... of a fertile egg. You are now a fertile egg.

A clock turned on the instant you became a fertile egg. With time and nourishment, you will turn into a unique adult - 100% of the time. Come to think of it ... that is exactly what you did. Now along the way, some people decided to crown you with the title - “being” or “person.” Of course, the instant you were so crowned, nothing physically changed. And, had this apposition been withheld ... actually, this title has no physical impact - one way or the other. So, what is this title? Well, it is ... a word. It is a metaphysical, subjective concept based upon nothing but the thin air between the ears of the adult humans bestowing it. One evidence this “*designation*” lacks foundation lies in the fact that the credentialing adults do not agree on what it is, what it means ... or when it starts. It is bestowed at arbitrary points all along the lifeline. Some wait until a few weeks in, some a few months, and some do not grant this magical designation until air can be breathed. “*Being*” is synonymous with another word - “*opinion*.” But rest assured, O fertile egg. Your physical march toward adulthood is separate from these opinions.

The Naturalist ... and “Being”

For the Naturalist (atheistic evolutionist), the question of “*being*” is as ridiculous as it is irrelevant. It is a vain attempt to make humans - more than an animal. No one ever wonders when cows or dogs reach “*cow-hood*” or “*dog-hood*.” Naturalists summarily dismiss this “*being*” query as dribble.

Furthermore, any assault on a fertile egg is seen by Naturalists - as actions of fools. Every species is continually battling to survive and adapt. Since profitable mutations arise randomly, each fertile egg is evolution’s jewel until proven otherwise. It is the fruit of the evolutionary victor, and in many higher species mothers will go to death defending the fruit of their wombs. Any one may contain the needed adaptation(s) for that lifeline to continue. It is a species future.

The Biblical Theist ... and “Being”

For the Biblical Theist, this personhood concept is also irrelevant. Because God “*Himself gives to all life*” (Acts 17:25), if the “*being*” designation is one He concerns Himself with, well, that is a transaction between Himself and that life. Everyone else is outside the loop.

In light of this, an assault on a fertile egg leaves the realm of “*fool*.” It is insanity. “*The hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives*”

(Eccl 9:3). God, “*the Lord ... makes alive*” (1Sam 2:6), and the stronger among us are given a special charge for protecting the weaker. To attack “*innocent*” human life at any point on its lifeline ... well, you do the math. This will not end well if their Creator has the power and will to act on the fertile egg's behalf.

The Humanist ... and “*Being*”

For the Humanist, this personhood issue is of great importance. By withholding this designation, the “*non-being*” is just a blob of protoplasm. It depends on which Humanist you are talking with as to when “*being*” arrives. Some believe a severed umbilical cord ushers it in. For others, being “*wanted*” by one or more of the parents, earns “*personhood*” - while still in the womb. Other Humanists talk in terms of trimesters - so, it depends upon which Humanist you are talking with as to what opinion you will hear on the “*being*” issue. But all Humanists do agree on one point. Before the moment when “*being*” is reached, anyone can do anything he/she wants with this subhuman blob of protoplasm.

A Word To - “*Mom*”

Mom, if you search every mountaintop, every ocean bottom, every cave on earth - and even scour the nest of every living thing - in all of nature, you will not find one human egg – fertile or not. If you look into a clear night sky, that vast universe (of which you are seeing the tiniest fraction) does not house ... one human egg anywhere. If humanity is valuable, there is only one place it originates. Through you come all the world's thinkers, inventors, artists and leaders ... and no one knows who will come from any particular womb. Many of the world's greatest citizens have arisen from the most humble of circumstances. Your womb, and man's future, are inextricably intertwined. You are humanity's gatekeeper.

Conclusion

Each fertile egg is a genetically complete, one-of-a-kind entity in all of past reality, present reality, and future reality. Each is an astoundingly unique - and exceedingly rare - piece of living matter. It contains genetic “*triggers*” that engage at the proper times so the correct elements, in proper proportions, are corralled for the construction that unique adult. The fertile egg of the human is the most sophisticated physical entity in the known universe. No matter rivals it. It is filled with inexhaustible wonders. The abortion debate begins here. I now stand in awe of the fertile egg ... and its Creator.

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This is just the beginning of the abortion argument.

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