

The Student asked the Professor, "Is it not true that science has declared that mammals are warm-blooded, and suckle their young?"

"Science has so declared," agreed the Professor.

"And also," continued the student, "has science not declared that reptiles and birds lay eggs?"

"Yes," agreed the Professor.

"Then what of the platypus?" asked the Student. "It is neither mammal nor reptile nor bird. It is a freak of nature. What kind of gods could have created such a defective animal?"

"What of the scientist?" asked the Professor. "He declares mammals to be Real, and he declares Reptiles to be Real, and he declares birds to be Real, yet he finds difficulty with the platypus. I have never seen a mammal, I have never seen a reptile, I have never seen a bird. But I have seen a badger, I have seen a gecko, I have seen a cockatiel. I have also seen a platypus.

"What kind of gods could have created such a science?"