

WHAT IS LIFE?

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-----ABSTRACT-----

What is life? This question comes in everyone's mind in their life. I searched answers; I found it, at origin level of life." *Life is valency of an atom*". Valency is the combining power of atoms or groups measured by number of electrons the atom or group will receive, give up, or share in forming a compound. Due to this power a chemical chain reaction is started. This chemical chain reaction results in an autonomous system to complete their octate or duplet for stability. This autonomous system represents our life. Our role in life is to continue this autonomous system as we have a mind, thinking power. It is to maintain a harmonious relationship with plants and animals i.e. to save the earth. But we are becoming more selfish animals as we polluted the earth rather than saving it. It may take millions of years to recover, but even after its recovery; there may not be life on earth anymore.

Keywords – Life, origin of life, purpose of life, meaning of life, Ultimate fate of life.

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is a challenge for scientists and philosophers to define life in unequivocal terms. This is difficult partly because life is a process, not a pure substance. Any definition must be sufficiently broad to encompass all life with which we are familiar, and must be sufficiently general to include life that may be fundamentally different from life on Earth. Some of the earliest theories of life were materialist, holding that all that exists is matter, and that life is merely a complex form or arrangement of matter. Empedocles (430 BC) argued that everything in the universe is made up of a combination of four eternal "elements" or "roots of all": earth, water, air, and fire. All change is explained by the arrangement and rearrangement of these four elements. The various forms of life are caused by an appropriate mixture of elements. [1]

Democritus (460 BC) thought that the essential characteristic of life is having a soul (psyche). Like other ancient writers, he was attempting to explain what makes something a living thing. His explanation was that fiery atoms make a soul in exactly the same way atoms and void account for any other thing. He elaborates on fire because of the apparent connection between life and heat, and because fire moves. [2] The evolutionary theory of Charles Darwin (1859) is a mechanistic explanation for the origin of species by means of natural selection. [3] Hylomorphism is a theory (originating with Aristotle (322 BC)) that all things are a combination of matter and form. Biology was one of his main interests, and there is extensive biological material in his extant writings. In this view, all things in the material universe have both matter and form, and the form of a living thing is its soul (Greek psyche, Latin anima). There are three kinds of souls: the vegetative soul of plants, which cause them to grow and decay and nourish themselves, but do not cause motion and sensation; the animal soul, which causes animals to move and feel; and the rational soul, which is the source of consciousness and reasoning, which (Aristotle believed) is found only in man. [4] Each higher soul has all the attributes of the lower one. Aristotle believed that while matter can exist without form, form cannot exist without matter, and therefore the soul cannot exist without the body. [5] Vitalism is the belief that the life-principle is non-material. This originated with Stahl (17th century), and held sway until the middle of the 19th century. It appealed to philosophers such as Henri Bergson, Nietzsche, Wilhelm Dilthey, [6] anatomists like Bichat, and chemists like Liebig. [7] Vitalism included the idea that there was a fundamental difference between organic and inorganic material, and the belief that organic material can only be derived from living things. This was disproved in 1828, when Friedrich Wöhler prepared urea from inorganic materials. [8] This Wöhler synthesis is considered the starting point of modern organic chemistry. It is of historical significance because for the first time an organic compound was produced from inorganic reactants. [7]

During the 1850s, Helmholtz, anticipated by Mayer, demonstrated that no energy is lost in muscle movement, suggesting that there were no "vital forces" necessary to

move a muscle. [9] These results led to the abandonment of scientific interest in vitalistic theories, although the belief lingered on in pseudoscientific theories such as homeopathy, which interprets diseases and sickness as caused by disturbances in a hypothetical vital force or life.

II. WHAT IS LIFE?

What is life? This question comes in everyone's mind in their life. I searched answers; I found it, at origin level of life. "Life is valency of an atom".

Valency is recorded as "combining power of an element" In 1884, from German Valenz. [10] In 1789, William Higgins published views on what he called combinations of "ultimate" particles, which foreshadowed the concept of valency bonds. [11] It is the combining power of atoms or groups measured by number of electrons the atom or group will receive, give up, or share in forming a compound. Due to this power a chemical chain reaction is started. This chemical chain reaction results in an autonomous system to complete their octate or duplet for stability. This autonomous system represents our life. Our role in life is to continue this autonomous system as we have a mind, thinking power. It is to maintain a harmonious relationship with plants and animals i.e. to save the earth. But we are becoming more selfish animals as we polluted the earth rather than saving it. It may take millions of years to recover, but even after it recovery; there may not life on earth anymore.

III. CONCLUSION

Life is valency of atom. Our role is that to continue this chain reaction till we will fill the world. As we have mind we have ability to make things happen as and when we want them to be. We can maintain a harmonious relation with other animal and plants to sustain life.

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