

PE1530/JJ

Michelle R King Email of 1 January 2015

Only this morning, I was explaining a scientific article to a friend who was schooled with creationism as a science, and who now as an adult continues to struggle with basic science. Here is my response to them (abbreviated):

“Two different species of bacterium (single celled organisms) were studied so they were better controlled in the experiments, but they more closely share evolutionary cousins than say, our human individual cells; but this still is something to learn from. The single celled organisms have an innate mechanism that ‘tells them’ when to divide and when not to divide- and is not related to the time of the last cell division, as previously thought...”

This person and many like them have much more potential- had they been provided the opportunity that I had in my public school educational experiences in the late 60’s and early 70’s in the US, pre-creationism as a science. I am a well-rounded individual, with critical thinking skills; a volunteer, a teacher, a mentor, and a healer. I can't help but feel as though I've dodged an intellectually stifling bullet each time that I tutor adults who have been educated in science where creationism was taught as a 'science', and so far, all of these people in my repertoire are angry about it.

In addition, any scientific and at least higher learning institution has a governing body with checks and balances to ensure quality. In US hospitals, we have standardized Joint Commission evaluations that work well, improving the quality of medicine; making me wonder if this single teaching omission, that of creationism, would fail and seriously penalize an institution under these strict guidelines that we have in place in all scientific institutions. I warrant that it would.

I ask that you rethink your position on allowing the teaching of one holy book as “science,” and those repercussions with respect to stifling the future of you Nation.

Thank you and sincerely,

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