

The “Problem” of Irreducible Complexity

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The “Problem” of Irreducible Complexity

Imagine living without your skin. Imagine living without your brain. Does that even seem possible? It isn't! It isn't because you are irreducibly complex! What is irreducible complexity? Irreducible complexity refers to a complex system that consists of several interacting parts that would not exist or function if only one of the parts is removed. A mechanical clock is a great example of irreducible complexity. It looks simple, but inside are many cogs and gears working together to make the clock function properly. If just one of these parts was missing the clock would never function. The clock is irreducibly complex. Creation is full of examples of irreducible complexity. This essay will explore some examples of irreducible complexity. First, we will study a cactus, then the giraffe, and lastly the human body.



A cactus is a very interesting plant. It can live up to 200 years, and a fully grown saguaro cactus can soak up to 200 gallons of water when it rains. A cactus collects sunlight during the day and continues the process of photosynthesis during the night. The root system of a cactus dries up when it is not raining. However, when it does rain, the roots collect water and it is stored up inside the plant. An article on cacti states “Due to evolution, the plants have for med a thick layer of plant tissue. The dense tissue is essential for water storage and retention deep within the plant.”¹ However, if the tissue was formed over many years, the plant would never

¹ <https://cactusway.com/how-does-a-cactus-survive-in-the-desert/>

survive the process, because early on in the process, the plant's tissue would be too thin to store and retain the water. Not only is the cactus irreducibly complex, but every plant is! How could any plant ever survive the evolutionary process?



Not only are plants irreducibly complex, but animals are too! The giraffe is a very special animal. A giraffe's heart weighs 25lb! In order to get its blood pumping from its heart, up its long neck, to the brain, it needs to have very high blood pressure and a strong heart. When the giraffe bends down, its body is designed so that the blood pressure lowers to prevent a blood explosion in its head. If this special feature evolved, then there would have to be a time in the evolutionary process when it was not there and the giraffe would be dead. Our Creator made giraffes irreducibly complex. Not only are giraffes irreducibly complex, but every animal is!

How could any animal ever survive the evolutionary process?

Plants and animals are not the only irreducibly complex creations. The human body is full of irreducibly complex organs and systems. Your skin is part of the dermal system. Without the dermal system, we would be a lump of organs, tissue and bone. In other words, we would be dead. The respiratory system carries oxygen to your blood and releases carbon dioxide. If we didn't have this system, we would be dead. Likewise, the nervous system, which includes the brain and nerves, tells your body what and when to do things. Without it, the human body would not function, much less exist. The circulatory system circulates blood all over your body. Your arteries carry your blood away from your heart and your veins carry your blood to your heart. Without our hearts pumping blood around our bodies, we would be dead. If we evolved over time, then during the process we would not have some of these systems. However, without just one system fully developed, the human body would be dead.

“Evolution has no answer to the “problem” of irreducible complexity.”² You can study any plant, animal, and system in the human body and find every one of them irreducibly complex. Studying creation, leads us to the conclusion that our Creator made each of His creations fully functioning living beings.

²Tichelar, Jeff. High Tech vs. the Highest Tech. Milk and Honey Ministries, 2019

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