

You Are Unique

The Problem With Peacocks

Psalm 139

Psalm 139:1-18

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.

3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

5 You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven,
You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold,
You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
Even the night shall be light about me;

12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

**13 For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.**

- **Spurgeon:** *"Thou art the owner of my inmost parts and passions: not the indweller and observer only, but the acknowledged lord and possessor of my most secret self. . . . this God doth not only inspect, and visit, but it is*

his own; he is as much at home there as a landlord on his own estate, or a proprietor in his own house." 1

**14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.**

- Who can gaze even upon a model of our anatomy without wonder and awe? Who could dissect a portion of the human frame without marvelling at its delicacy, and trembling at its frailty? 2
- They are works within my own self, yet are they beyond my understanding, and appear to me as so many miracles of skill and power. We need not go to the ends of the earth for marvels, nor even across our own threshold; they abound in our own bodies. 3

**15 My frame (substance) was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.**

**16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.**

- There is no doubt that the architect of any building knows the inner workings very well.
 - He designed the inner workings
 - Designed to work in union
 - Designed to accomplish good.
- So has our Great Designer
 - We are built to His design, His will, His image and likeness

**17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!**

**18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.**

Scripture describes us as unique in our self – starting with Jesus

John 3:16 For in this way God loved the world,
so that he gave **his one and only Son,**

1 C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David: Psalms 120-150*, vol. 6 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 262.

2 C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David: Psalms 120-150*, vol. 6 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 262.

3 C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David: Psalms 120-150*, vol. 6 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 262.

in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life. 4

- **Unique**
- **Special**
- **“only begotten”:**
 - **58.52 μονογενής, ἕς: pertaining to what is unique in the sense of being the only one of the same kind or class—‘unique, only.’** τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν ‘he gave his only Son’ Jn 3:16; τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἀπέσταλκεν ὁ θεός ‘God sent his only Son’ 1 Jn 4:9; τὸν μονογενῆ προσέφερεν ὁ τὰς ἐπαγγελίας ἀναδεξάμενος ‘he who had received the promises presented his only son’ or ‘... was ready to offer his only son’ Heb 11:17. Abraham, of course, did have another son, Ishmael, and later sons by Keturah, but Isaac was a unique son in that he was a son born as the result of certain promises made by God. Accordingly, he could be called a μονογενής son, since he was the only one of his kind. 5

Hebrews 11:17–19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac, and the one who received the promises was ready to offer **his one and only son,**

18 with reference to whom it was said,

“In Isaac your descendants will be named,”

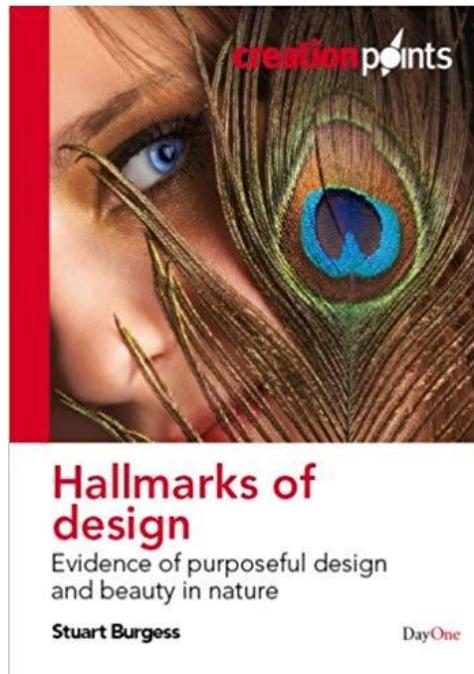
19 having reasoned that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which he received him back also as a symbol.

Romans 8:3 For what was impossible for the law, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did. By sending **his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:32 Indeed, he who did not spare **his own Son,** but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, together with him, freely give us all things?

4 W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Jn 3:16.

5 Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 590.



There are 10 particular characteristics of the human being that are unique:

1. Upright stature –
 - a. Fine balance
 - b. Flat face
 - c. Upright skull
 - d. Straight back
 - e. Fully extendable hip joints
 - f. Angled femur bones
 - g. Fully extendable knee joints
 - h. Long legs
 - i. Arched feet
 - j. Strong, big bones
2. Skillful hands – product of an upright stature, can stand freely and manipulate things with hands rather than using them to remain balanced.
 - a. Opposable thumbs
 - b. Highly dexterous
 - c. Large control center in palms
3. Unique skin
 - a. Vulnerable to weather, damage, most skin unprotected by hair.
 - b. Vulnerable to water damage
 - c. Fine sense of touch
4. Intricate language
 - a. Thousands of languages – many with hundreds of dialects

- b. Unique tongue and lips to form complex sounds and inflections
- 5. Intricate facial expressions
 - a. Absence of facial hair to disguise expressions
 - b. Very unique facial muscles (14 bones, 53 muscles in the face).
 - i. Thousands of facial expressions
 - c. Apes have few facial muscles – capable of only a few expressions
- 6. Unique intellect
 - a. Human brain considered to be the most complicated structure in the Universe.
 - b. Conscious thought/reasoning/contemplation
 - i. Capable of appreciating beauty
 - ii. Color changes in minute shades
 - c. **Dr. Gerald Edelman**, a brain researcher at New York's Rockefeller University summed up the challenge of understanding the power of the human brain:

"Suppose I understood everything about how the brain works, I couldn't possibly visualize the process. Just to count the number of connections to the brain's cortex at one per second would take 12 million years!"
 - d. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791): he had a phenomenal capability to produce compositions in both quality and quantity. Even though he only live to age 35, he wrote over 600 musical compositions, including over 40 symphonies. A single symphony can contain tens of thousands of notes all arranged in a very precise way, and he was producing these symphonies at a rate of over 2 per month.
- 7. Unique genetic code
 - a. Unique and distinctly different from every animal.
 - b. Only 2% different than a chimpanzee, but that 2% makes all the difference.
 - i. 60 million code differences in that 2%
- 8. Unique reproduction
 - a. Non-seasonal reproduction – any time of the year
 - b. Long childhood – special need for nurturing
- 9. Spiritual being
 - a. Created by God with a spirit and soul.

Genesis 1:27 So God created humankind in his image, in the likeness of God he created him, male and female he created them.

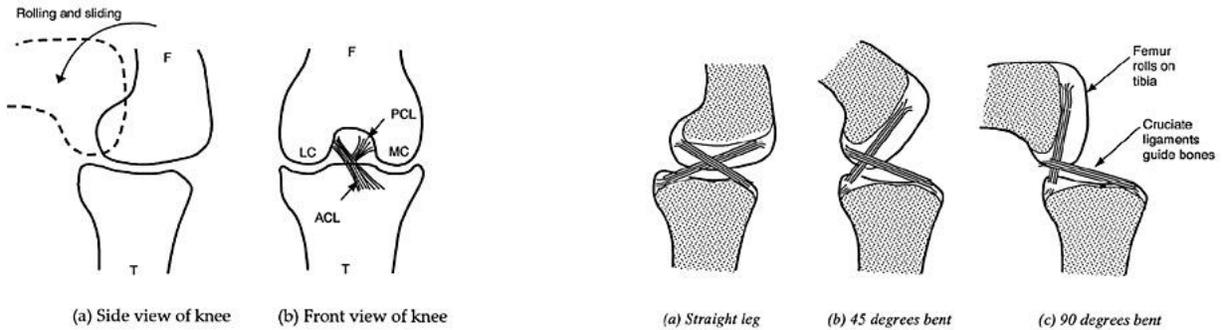
- **Evolution is based on a key assumption that natural mechanisms within organisms can evolve incrementally** so that all intermediate mechanisms have some useful function that gives a survival advantage. **A mechanism that can evolve one characteristic at a time whilst always having a useful function can be called a reducible mechanism. A mechanism that cannot evolve one characteristic at a time whilst always having a useful function can be called an irreducible mechanism.**
- Even Darwin himself admitted that evolution could only produce a **reducible mechanism**. In his Origin of Species, Darwin says:
'If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.'

Irreducible Mechanisms

- Human knee
 - Contains at least 16 critical characteristics, each requiring thousands of precise units of information **to exist simultaneously** in the genetic code. The knee could not have evolved, but must have been created as a fully functioning limb joint from the beginning of its existence.
 - **There are basically three types of limb joint in animals and humans.**
 - These are the ball and socket joint (e.g. hip and shoulder), the pivot joint (e.g. elbow) and the condylar joint (e.g. knee).
 - The knee joint is the largest and most complex joint in the human body. The knee is called a condylar joint because of the articulation between the femur and the tibia, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.10 The femur has two protrusions called condyles. These have a convex curvature in order to roll and slide against the tibia. The tibia has two concave grooves that match the condyles of the femur. The two central ligaments that connect the tibia to the femur are called cruciate ligaments because of the way they form a cross. These cruciate ligaments fit neatly inside the space between the two condyles.
 - **The knee joint is an irreducible joint because each of its four complex parts needs to exist simultaneously and in a complex assembly to be able to perform its basic function.** The two

bones are essential because they perform the rolling and sliding motion.

- The two cruciate ligaments are essential because they act as mechanical linkages and perform a vital guiding function in the joint, as shown in Figure 2.
- **If just one ligament is removed, then the joint cannot function as a hinge, and the joint can have no useful function.**



The Peacock Dance:

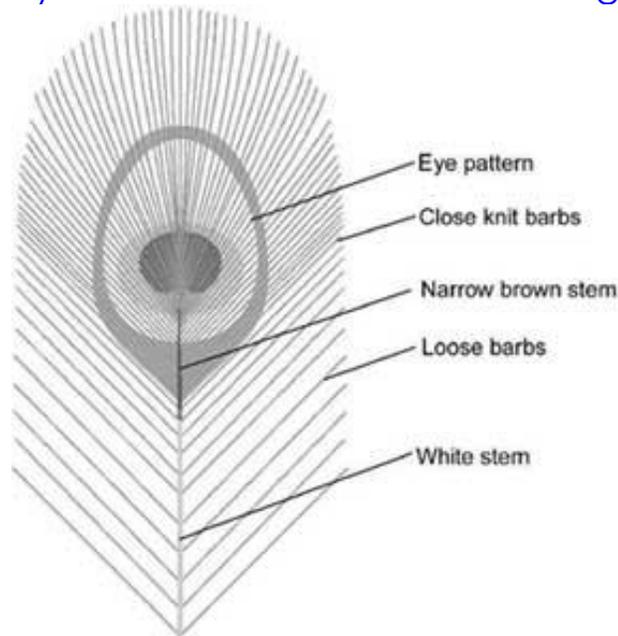
- <https://youtu.be/qDvFdj-pFMc>

The Problem of Peacocks!

- <https://youtu.be/ns9836MhH8M>

Highly intricate design

So specialized that many of the intricacies are not recognizable by the Peahen.



The colours in the eye feather

The colours in the peacock tail are particularly beautiful because they are bright and iridescent. An iridescent colour is a colour that changes with the angle of view. The colours are not produced by pigments but by an optical effect called thin-film interference that takes place in the barbules.⁴ In technical terms, the peacock has 'structural colours'.

In the eye pattern, the barbules appear bronze, blue, dark purple and green. Away from the eye region, the barbules are uniformly green. The colours in the eye feather can only be seen on the front surface of the feather because this is where the barbules are positioned. The back of the feather is uniformly brown because the barbs contain a brown pigment. To understand how thin-film interference is produced in the peacock tail, it is first necessary to understand the detailed structure of the feather.

Darwin himself recognized the problem of subtle aesthetic features. Darwin said, 'Many will declare that it is utterly incredible that a female bird should be able to appreciate fine shading and exquisite patterns. It is undoubtedly a marvellous fact that she should possess this almost human degree of taste'.¹⁹ What is really incredible is that evolutionists really believe that a peahen is able to recognize fine shading and exquisite patterns. There is no evidence that the peahen can recognize such subtle aesthetic features.

Darwin once said, 'The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me sick!'²⁶ If Darwin knew about the modern discoveries re the complexities of the peacock tail, he would have even greater reason to feel sick. In contrast, when Christians look at the tail of the peacock they can feel a wonderful assurance that there is a Creator who is infinite in wisdom and that the Creator has been very good to mankind in putting such beauty into the world.