

Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 6-2: The Wonderful Earth we live

According to all observations, (观察) the universe (宇宙) is not an orderless (无秩序) accumulation of materials (一堆物质). It is a gigantic (巨大的) system (系统) in perfect (完美的) order (秩序), moving according to very strict (严格) rules (规则). Precisely due to this (正因为这样), men can do scientific research accurately (人才能做精确的科研). Newton gave the analogy (比喻) of universe as a fully-wound huge clock (上满发条的大钟). However, **who made** this giant clock, and had it fully wound (reserved energy). An article in U.S. News & World Report remarks, “So far no theory is even close to explaining why physical laws (自然规律) exist, much less why they take the form they do. When we look at the earth, we cannot help but acknowledge that the earth is really a paradise (乐园) with unique (独特) endowment (天赐礼物) for men to live.

In the solar system (太阳系), the earth is well situated (位于) at a proper position. If the earth were too close to the sun it would be too hot or too cold. The periods of rotation (24 hours cycle) and revolution (365 days cycle) of the earth are just right. If its period of rotation were too long, the surface always exposed to sunshine would become as hot as fire, while the opposite side in shadow would be bitterly (十分) cold. If the period of rotation were too short, then the sea water rushes to the equatorial (赤道) area due to the high speed rotation. Vast (巨大) area of the low latitude region (低纬度地方) would be flooded (水泛滥) by sea water, the rest of the land in this region would also be under the flush (冲洗) of strong tidal waves (潮汐的浪), and no creature could survive. Because the rotation axis of earth inclines (倾斜) to one side, the equatorial (赤道的) plane of the earth and the ecliptic (黄道) plane are not the same; between them is an inclination angle of 23.5 degrees. So there is a four season on the earth. If the moon were too large, then the huge tidal effect induced by it would cause great disasters (灾难) on earth. If the earth were too small, there would not sufficient gravitation force (地心吸引力) to prevent (阻止) gas from escaping (逃走) and the atmosphere would gradually be lost. As the air was lost, water would follow it by evaporation (蒸发) and be lost also. If the earth were too large, then its gravitational force would cause the weight of a human body too heavy. No creature would be able to survive.

The surface of the earth is surrounded by a layer of air. The atmosphere (The Karman line at 100 KM is often regarded as boundary between atmosphere and outer space; about three

quarter of the atmosphere’s mass is below 11 KM above the earth surface, and airplanes usually fly at about 15 KM high) forms a Protection from meteorites (流星陨石). Most of the meteorites from the space burn out and disappear before they reach the ground. The fine dust produced provides nuclear (核心) particles for vapor (水蒸气) condensation (凝结), making rainfall (下雨) possible. The dust also gives the sky a bright and pretty blue color.

There is a strong magnetic (磁场) field around the earth that protects the creatures on earth from being hurt by solar particle flux (太阳粒子流). It also forms an ionized (使电子化) layer in the upper atmosphere. The ionized layer and the ozone (臭氧) layer have a good shielding (保护) effect against the electron magnetic waves (电磁波) coming from outer space (外太空) by absorbing (吸收) ultraviolet radiation (紫外线辐射).

The atmosphere has a greenhouse (暖房) effect which keeps the temperature and pressure on the earth warm and stable. If the earth pressure were too low due to smaller earth, then the water on the surface of the earth would evaporate (蒸发) and be lost.

70% of the earth’s surface is covered by water, which is essential for life. Water, working with the atmosphere, can give moderate and stable temperature and humidity (湿度) to the earth’s surface. As we know today, there is no other planet (行生) or satellite (卫星) in our solar system (太阳系) that has an atmosphere similar to that of earth as well as has such an abundant (丰富) of water. But water is only one of many requirements for life.

In order to satisfy creatures’ need for air, the atmospheric composition (组合) must be adjusted properly. Oxygen (about 20% of the air is oxygen) is needed by almost all creatures. Earth is the only planet in our solar system in which we can breathe.

The evidence shown the remarkable (非常的) fitness (适合) of earth for life, compelling (迫使) many scientists to admit (承认) the obvious (明显的) implication (联想到) that an Intelligent Designer (智慧的设计者) is behind (在后面) it all. The odds (可能性) that such fine-tuning earth (如此美好配合的地球) could have occurred by chance (巧合) is not just unlikely. It is virtually impossible (简直是万不可能).

2. Discussions:

1. Can you retell the wonderful physical conditions of the earth that fit for life?
2. Do you still believe that such a wonderful earth we have is formed accidentally?
3. We should admire the wisdom of the Intelligent Designer, should we?