The Yucca Plant and Yucca Moth

Yucca plants grow wild in Central America, although they are grown as garden plants elsewhere. They have long, spear-like leaves, with flowers growing on a stalk in the centre. Like all flowering plants, yuccas have to be pollinated, and they rely on only one kind of moth to do this. This is the Pronuba Moth — often called the Yucca Moth. In fact, both the plant and the moth depend on each other to survive.

The Yucca plant flowers once a year in spring, and at exactly the same time the moths break out of cocoons in the soil and crawl out of the ground. The female moths fly to a Yucca plant and carry a large ball of pollen three times as big as their heads. Their mouths are specially designed to hold this. Each moth then flies to another Yucca plant where it puts itself backwards deep into the flower and lays its eggs in the plant’s seed pod (ovary). The moth then climbs out and stuffs the ball of pollen into the ovary, pollinating the plant.

Gradually, the seeds grow and ripen, and the moth’s eggs hatch. The caterpillars find lots of delicious food all around them — the Yucca seeds, which they eat as they grow. But they never eat all the seeds, otherwise there would be no more Yucca plants. About two months after they hatch, each caterpillar cuts a hole through the pod, and drops down to the ground on a silk thread. They then burrow into the ground, spin a cocoon around themselves, and wait until the Yucca plant flowers again, as much as a year later. The whole process then starts again.

Evolutionists say the Yucca Plant and Yucca Moth evolved together by chance. This seems impossible to believe. The moths have to know exactly when the plants begin to flower, otherwise they would have no food and the plants would have no seeds. The moths have to have the special mouth parts to carry the pollen, and the caterpillars had to be able to break out of the pods and drop to the ground. When Yucca plants are grown in countries where there are no moths, they have to be pollinated by hand. Naturally, neither the plants nor the moths could exist without the other. It is much easier to believe that God created both the plant and the moth to work together in this amazing way.

DINOSAURS AND CREATION

“Did God create the dinosaurs? And how do they fit into the Bible?” These are questions people often ask. We know that dinosaurs existed because lots of their fossils have been found. But there is no proof that they all died out long before humans lived on earth, as most people believe, in this paper we have looked at evidence suggesting that people met dinosaur-like creatures in the past.

In the Bible we are told that on the sixth day of creation “God said, “Let the earth be filled with...” (Genesis 1:24). That must have included the sharp teeth of some dinosaurs, and God created Adam and Eve, the first people, that same day. God said, “You may eat of every fruit of the land...” (Genesis 1:29). How could that be possible if there were no other plants and animals on earth? Did God create Adam and Eve knowing that there would be only plants and seeds, and that sharp teeth of both plant and animals were useless to kill other animals. It was only after Adam and Eve sinned that God created animals and wild animals begin to kill.

We now live in this spoiled world with its pain and suffering. But God has promised that one day there will be a new creation. “Everything God made will be set free from ruin.” (Romans 8:21). God will wash all our sins away and there will be no more suffering, pain, and death. And we will, if we put our faith in Jesus. His Son, Jesus, came to earth to die on the Cross, then rose again from the dead, so that we could be forgiven and live with Him for ever. Is Jesus your Saviour and Friend?

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

1. SeaL — not a fish.
2. Pigeon — not a bird.
3. Ostrich — can’t fly.
4. Elephant — not a land animal.
5. Antelope — not a farm animal.

Did Dragons Exist?

Many people have heard the story of St George and the Dragon (right), but did humans really meet such creatures? In the British Isles alone there are hundreds of dragon stories. One, from Bures in Suffolk, dated 1405, tells of “a dragon, vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a tail extending to an enormous length”, which killed a shepherd and “devoured many sheep.” In Canterbury Cathedral library is the record of a fight between two giant reptiles on 26th September 1499 near the village of Little Comard. There are also lots of pictures and carvings, such as the 16th-century one (left) on a pew-end at North Cadbury church in Somerset, which shows two dragons hatching from eggs.

But surely the dinosaurs died out long before humans lived on earth? There is no proof of this, and dinosaur fossils don’t come with dates stamped on them! In 1961 a geologist discovered a large graveyard of dinosaur bones in Alaska that had not even had time to fossilise. Another interesting fact that lots of dinosaur fossils have been found in China, where they are often called “dragon bones.”

DINOSAURS REDISCOVERED!

In many different countries of the world there are many stories of people meeting “dragons.” In China, especially, pictures and carvings of dragons are popular (see pictures on left). Legend says that, long ago, Chinese emperors used dragons to pull their chariots. Today, many Chinese people celebrate the new year by wearing dragon costumes. Are these pictures and customs based on memories of a time when people really did meet dragon-like creatures? Were the “dragons” really dinosaurs? It is interesting to note that lots of dinosaur fossils have been found in China, where they are often called “dragon bones.”

Indians’ dinosaur carvings

In 1924, two men in a car explored the Havi Shupi Canyon in the Grand Canyon. On the canyon wall they found an Indian carving of a wild goat, an elephant, and — a dinosaur. One of the explorers, Samuel Hubbard, said, “The prehistoric artist must have seen it alive.” There were also dinosaur footprints nearby. Why would the Indians draw a dinosaur if they had never seen one?

Recommend books: The Great Dinosaur Mystery’s Solved by Ken Ham, and Dinosaurs (published by Kyle Bluft & Eric Lyons. (Order from adeptics on back page).
**Nature Notes by the Editor**

Although it’s still winter as I write these notes, there are signs of spring in the garden. Crocuses and irises are in flower, and daffodils in bud. Soon there will be a wonderful display of flowers. You may know the song that begins “Think of a world without any flowers.” We can’t imagine such a world, can we? There are thousands and thousands of different flowers which help to make our world beautiful. Where did flowers come from? Some people believe they came by accident, and they just happen to look beautiful. They say they evolved from plants that didn’t have flowers, but there is no evidence for this.

Look at the two roses on the right. One is real, the other artificial. Do you know which is which? (answer on back page). The artificial one is not alive, but so well designed that it looks real. Of course, no-one would believe that the artificial rose was made by accident — it’s obvious that someone made it. So isn’t it strange that so many people believe that real flowers — which are alive and growing — didn’t need a Creator? Don’t believe this lie! God made flowers for us to enjoy. Let’s thank Him for creating such beauty! — Geoff Chapman

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**Dinosaurs were God’s design!**

All the dinosaurs were wonderfully designed. Consider the brachiosaurus (right). Its neck was built like a crane, with specially designed bones and muscles. We all know that cranes have designers. Why not the brachiosaurus? Evolution just can’t explain how these amazing creatures came to be, because, although thousands of dinosaur fossils have been discovered around the world — sometimes in huge graveyards — there are no fossils showing that dinosaurs evolved from something else. Also, the different kinds of dinosaurs appear separately in the fossil record, which fits what the Bible says about God creating separate “kinds” in the beginning. Those fossil graveyards, where thousands of dinosaurs are buried in rock layers, show they must have been killed very suddenly by some kind of catastrophe. This could be the great flood of Noah’s time.

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**Could dinosaurs still be living?**

On December 30th 1999 a newspaper in Papua New Guinea reported two sightings of a ‘dinosaur-like reptile’ in the Lake Murray area. Villagers travelling in a canoe saw a huge creature with a long neck, long slender tail, and legs ‘as thick as coconut palm tree trunks’. And in the Congo jungle in Africa local people claim to have seen a dinosaur-like animal they call Mokole-Mbembe. Scientists quite often discover living animals that they believed had died out long ago. Maybe, one day, we shall discover that dinosaurs are still with us, and the theory that they died out 65 million years ago will have to be scrapped.

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**Spot the intruder**

Which animal in each list is the odd one out?

1. Tuna, sardine, seal, swordfish, salmon.
2. Giraffe, antelope, gorilla, tortoise, tiger.
3. Crow, swallow, albatross, seagull, ostrich.
4. Newt, frog, toad, crocodile, salamander.
5. Sheep, antelope, pig, cow, goat.

(ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE)