

49:1 (“The Planetary Life”)

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Source for 49:1

- (1) Henry Fairfield **Osborn**, *The Origin and Evolution of Life* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1916, 1917)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the UB writer pointedly differ from each other.
- (e) **Blue** indicates UB-specific terminology and concepts. (What to highlight in this regard is debatable. The highlights are tentative.)

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PAPER 49 — THE INHABITED WORLDS

1. THE PLANETARY LIFE

49:1.1 The universes of time and space are gradual in development; the progression of life—terrestrial or celestial—is neither arbitrary nor magical. Cosmic evolution may not always be understandable (predictable), but it is strictly nonaccidental.

49:1.2 The biologic unit of material life is the protoplasmic cell, the communal association of chemical, electrical, and other basic energies.

The chemical formulas differ in each system, and the technique of living cell reproduction is slightly different in each local universe,

[*Compare:* A catalyzer is a substance which modifies the velocity of any chemical reaction without itself being used up by the reaction.... In fact, the interacting agents known as “enzymes” are such living catalyzers, and accelerate or retard reactions in the body by forming intermediary unstable compounds which are rapidly decomposed, leaving the catalyzer (*i.e.*, enzyme) free to repeat the action (Osborn 57).]

but the Life Carriers are always the living catalyzers

who initiate the primordial reactions of material life; they are the instigators of the energy circuits of living matter.

49:1.3 All the worlds of a local system disclose unmistakable physical kinship; nevertheless, each planet has its own scale of life, no two worlds being exactly alike in plant and animal endowment. These planetary variations in the system life types result from the decisions of the Life Carriers. But these beings are neither capricious nor whimsical; the universes are conducted in accordance with law and order. The laws of Nebadon are the divine mandates of Salvington, and the evolutionary order of life in Satania is in consonance with the evolutionary pattern of Nebadon.

49:1.4 Evolution is the rule of human development, but the process itself varies greatly on different worlds. Life is sometimes initiated in one center, sometimes in three, as it was on Urantia. On the atmospheric worlds it usually has a marine origin, but not always; much depends on the physical status of a planet. The Life Carriers have great latitude in their function of life initiation.

[?]

49:1.5 In the development of planetary life the vegetable form always precedes the animal and is quite fully developed before the animal patterns differentiate.

[?]

All animal types are developed from the basic patterns of the preceding vegetable kingdom of living things; they are not separately organized.

49:1.6 The early stages of life evolution are not altogether in conformity with your present-day views. *Mortal man is not an evolutionary accident.* There is a precise system, a universal law, which determines the unfolding of the planetary life plan on the spheres of space.

VIII: EVOLUTION OF THE MAMMALS (Osborn 234)

AFRICA AS A GREAT THEATRE OF RADIATION (Osborn 269)

The general fact that the slow-breeding elephants evolved very much more rapidly than the frequently breeding rodents, such as the mice and rats (Muridæ), is one of the many evidences that the rate of evolution may not be governed by the frequency of natural selection and elimination.

For example, in the murine family of rodents, the annual progeny is very numerous and reproduction is very frequent, while among the elephants there is only a single offspring and reproduction is comparatively infrequent,

yet the grinding teeth of the Proboscidea evolve far more rapidly and into much more highly complicated structures than the grinding teeth of any of the rapidly breeding rodents (O 271-72).

[See Osborn 6-7.]

Time and the production of large numbers of a species are not the controlling influences.

Mice reproduce much more rapidly than elephants,

yet elephants evolve more rapidly than mice.

49:1.7 The process of planetary evolution is orderly and controlled. The development of higher organisms from lower groupings of life is not accidental.

Sometimes evolutionary progress is temporarily delayed by the destruction of certain favorable lines of life plasm carried in a selected species. It often requires ages upon ages to recoup the damage occasioned by the loss of a single superior strain of human heredity.

These selected and superior strains of living protoplasm should be jealously and intelligently guarded when once they make their appearance. And on most of the inhabited worlds these superior potentials of life are valued much more highly than on Urantia.
