



# “PETE’S SHED” AND THE MEMORY OF THE FUTURE

by Pierre Beaudry, February 15, 2013



Ask yourself: where does life come from? This is a tricky question because most people will tend to look in the wrong place for an answer. The biggest mistake biologists make, with respect to the origin of life is that they locate it in the past. But, if you locate the origin of life in the past, all sorts of fallacies will take place, problems become insoluble, and you will never know why anything started and why the distant past can never be known, because you will have foolishly imagined that origins are forever lost in the fog of some inaccessible antediluvian time. So, why look for something where it will never be found? I suggest that you turn your head around, change your view of things, and look for the origin of life as coming from the future.

Consider the idea that the only way to know the origin of anything is by investigating what it was created for. In other words, what is the purpose of life, why does life exist? The reason you find it difficult to answer that question is because the answer involves the paradox of *causality by time-inversion*. The advantage of doing this exercise in reversed causality is that everything you thought you knew becomes changed, and problems get solved more simply from the top down, as opposed to from the bottom up, when you ask the question: “WHY?” However, the implication of this change of direction is that you must start from the end in order to understand the beginning, from the Noosphere in order to understand the Biosphere. In other words, you must understand life from the human form of increase in energy-flux density, that is, from the mind to the ameba as opposed to from the ameba to the mind.

If you take that direction, you will stop looking for the origin of life as coming from some primeval microbial soup on Earth, or from some extraterrestrial micro-organic infection that took place billions of years ago, and instead, you will seek the origin of life from the intelligence of the cosmos as a whole. So, you have to shift your questioning by shifting from perception to mind. Don’t ask “WHERE”; ask “WHY”? “WHERE” is a sense perception question; “WHY” is a question which is addressed to the reason behind where and what things are. The only intelligent question to ask of anything is: “WHY?” Since everything that is created comes from mind, you must, therefore, first eradicate the fallacy of approaching the origin of life as if it came from somewhere else but mind, and from something like a

genetically coded program that had been built by a combination of chance mutations and natural selections from past elementary building blocks.

The underlying fallacy of looking for the origin of life in the past comes from the question, “WHERE?”, that is, from the conception which derives everything that lives from the *a priori* of some original thing located in some proverbial “first egg” which came before, or soon after, some proverbial “first chicken,” as opposed to the conception of an architectonic plan of universally established harmony derived from mind and coming from the future. If the causality of mind comes from the future and not from the past, this means that the cause of everything that is created naturally from mind comes from what mind is attempting to become, which is ahead of you, not behind you.

Imagine, then, that your intention is to build a house for your children. This plan is presently in your mind, but in the future at the same time. It will not be realized until your house is actually built at some future date. If you think like that, then your life will be organized in such a way that everything you do today will be decided from what is going to happen tomorrow, and not from what takes place today, or what happened yesterday. The cause of everything you do is in the future. Therefore, you must start from what is not there, because everything you do is determined by what does not yet exist. So, you must always start anything from the end and never from the beginning. Then, and only then, shall the plan of what you will have constructed be realized. Thus, the cause always comes after the effect. Causality breaks with the repetitive motions of the past, by imposing its intention from the future.



**Figure 1** *Pete's Shed*, in Leesburg Va. Featuring Charles and Peter Roberts. A family shed decorated by Peter Roberts with several generations of working tools. Photo Credit Robert Merhaut Photography.

A good example of such an intentional scheme is *Pete's Shed* on Loudoun Street, in Leesburg Virginia. (**Figure 1**) The irony of this backyard variety of artistic composition is that Pete decided to

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show the truth about the repetitive seminal gestures of his family's work by turning his shed inside out. One look at *Pete's Shed* and you can see that it is a sense perception trap. So, why did Pete put the tools outside the shed instead of inside? Because he wanted to shock your common sense and bring your attention to his intention, which can only be discovered with your mind's eye. For instance, most people will see in these old tools a celebration of the past, while Pete was actually celebrating the future.

The tools of *Pete's Shed* are displayed as if they were different personalities on a classical stage representing the drama of over a hundred years of hard labor in the State of Virginia. However, since perception is deceiving, these old tools are not what they appear to be; they represent a state of mind which finally decided to nail its bad habits against the wall. As in a classical Shakespearian drama, these old tools don't speak for themselves. They may appear as ghosts of years past, speaking of toil and hardship, but they actually are the harbingers of hope and change for the next generations of black labor in America. These old tools speak to the future.

The tools of *Pete's Shed* are the loud reminders that the future must not be like the past, that mankind must be relieved from the boredom of mechanical and repetitive toil, and that work must become noetic and poetic. Therefore, when Pete started to compose his shed poem, the time had come for these old tools to be nailed down permanently, never to repeat their motions again, and instead, to convey a few thoughts of wisdom to passersby, like Pete's old tired bones used to do from the front porch of his little brown house on Loudoun Street, during the last years of his life, smiling and waving at inquisitive minds whom he didn't even know, before he died a few years ago, but to whom he wished a better life wherever they went tomorrow. Such was Pete's legacy to the immortality of the human species.

The question about the origin of life is similar. Its origin lies not in its past but in its future. The problem is that the mind is fooled when it fails to think about the intention from the future, which is the failure to see that the evolution of life comes from a planned universal intention as a whole, a plan which is changing, developing, and progressing, by becoming more perfect; a plan which is generated from mind as opposed to from non-living matter; that is to say, from an epistemological condition of the universe as opposed to a material condition of a non-living matter. Mind is the hylozoic principle of the universe.

The error that most biologists generally make is based on the assumption that there is some pre-living matter which regulates and directs the behavior of living organisms from the past toward their future, and which guides them to some unforeseen and unchanging destiny. That is the wrong way to look at life. There is no such prearranged condition in the universe, no preestablished code, neither in Leesburg nor elsewhere for that matter. The universe is not prefabricated. However, this doesn't mean that life is not preconceived. It is. Life exists before it is born, because it is planned before it is created. This means that life is not directed from some proverbial original egg that was laid billions of years ago, and which is slowly running out of its juices. Life is directed from the future by the next higher state of existence of the universe, which already exists in mankind's creative powers. So, where is the origin of life located? The origin of life is located in the intention to become noetic. The intention of life is to become Human-like just as the intention of mankind is to become God-like. That is how *Pete's Shed* represents the memory of the future.

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