

The Newer Developments In Science

Back when I was little and I used to play Dungeons and Dragons, we had this prophecy, that one day someone would come land on our planet in a giant spaceship, all the earth-people would gather 'round the spaceship for miles and miles in a giant crowd, waiting for a little green man to come out of the spaceship. The door of the spaceship opens and the crowd starts screaming and applauding. Then a hush descends upon the crowd and the little green man comes out. He opens his mouths and blinks his three eyes, takes a deep breath and announces calmly, yet sternly to the crowd: "No, no, no. You've got it all wrong." Think of this in a sort of Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy tone. And the joke is that he has come from very far away to tell us that everything we know is wrong.

My knee is aching me right now, and also a little part of my brain is aching, because the other day as I was driving the car on the road, I heard the radio say that some people would like to start teaching Intelligent Design (God created The Earth) alongside that wacky-dacky theory of Evolution. When I was even littler, I learned about Evolution in School. I learned the causes of genetic mutation alongside the alphabet. If the teachers believed in God, they kept it to themselves. In fact I don't even remember learning about God in Sunday school. Maybe I didn't pay really good attention.

I like how I learned about the myths of creation – I read about them in Childcraft books. My favorite was the Japanese one, about how islands were created by a male and female, from salt dripping off a jeweled spear. I read these stories after school, in my dad's trumpet-practicing room. My question is, are we going to teach all the myths of creation alongside evolution? Or just a specific one? Where does the myth of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy come into all this? I understand that the argument is that since a majority of people in the US believe that some extraterrestrial being created the earth, we should be teaching it in school, but where do we draw the line? Do we teach what the majority of people in the world believe? Or the majority of people in the US? Or the majority of people (students; kids) in the school?

I really hate to be political, and I don't want people writing to me complaining that they believe in God or that I should. It just makes me scared that everything I learned in school might be wrong. Do I get grandfathered into the whole Intelligent Design thing? Can I just stay with evolution and remain blissfully ignorant about The Newer Developments in Science? What do I do if my kid comes home and starts talking about this stuff? What if I don't agree with the religion that my kid's school is teaching? This is what I'm a bit afraid of. And are we going to throw that little bit about scientific inquiry and logic out the window now if we're gonna incorporate unproveable myths in our children's science classes?

I'm gonna take some time out from writing this to buy some drawer organizers.