

(c) It is not possible for us as finite human beings to say that death in the animal world was not in the original, good plan of God, but that death in the plant world was in his plan. Who are we to say that plants are less "alive" than animals? Plants can carry out some activities which animals can not. Their cells are highly complex; and many plants produce motile reproductive cells--and even motile non-reproductive cells--which swim about by means of flagella just as actively as flagellated protozoans of the animal world.

(d) The same wisdom of God which led Him to ordain that plant life would serve as food for certain organisms could certainly have ordained that certain animals would also serve as food. For example, when God created the kinds of whales which live on microscopic organisms (as the blue whale), He surely foresaw that as they dashed through the water scooping up planktonic organisms their diet would include many kinds of tiny crustaceans which are very complex animals. Crustaceans belong to the same phylum as insects and have a degree of organization very similar to that of insects (see above on insects). Even if we might say that these whales may have originally eaten seaweed, we would have to remember that a vast number of these tiny crustaceans are found in among and clinging to the branches of the seaweed. (We do not mean to imply that we believe these whales ever lived on seaweed. The blue whale and its relatives have no teeth, but instead have a complex straining mechanism composed of many closely spaced, parallel plates of "whalebone" that hang down from the roof of the mouth, for straining out microscopic organisms from the water which they take in.)

A further evidence that many animals were originally designed by God for feeding on other animals is seen in the feeding reaction of lizards, salamanders, and adult frogs and toads. Each of these very rapidly snaps up its food (even if it is a piece of beefsteak presented to the animal on the end of a stick). Such a vigorous "all-out" attack on a "harmless" piece of beefsteak seems nonsense until one realizes that these animals live almost exclusively on rapidly moving insects, and that this "lightning speed" feeding mechanism has been necessary to their survival. Now the question comes, if these animals were vegetarians before the fall of man, how did they get this special feeding reaction? One might unwittingly say that these animals developed it on their own because of hunger, wrong feelings or such; but this is very unlikely. This feeding reaction requires special features of the nervous system which even man--often under extreme conditions of hunger--has never been able to develop. Dr. T. H. Frazzetta, in his recent research on the feeding reaction of one species of lizard (an "alligator lizard," Gerrhonotus multicarinatus), has found that the length of time required for the lizard to capture an insect is approximately one-tenth of a second, at a temperature of 85° F.¹ Man is the most intelligent creature, with the most highly organized brain, and has often been hungry in the midst of many birds and other food animals, but he has been unable to develop an ability such as this.

It would not seem proper to say that Satan, at the time of the fall of man, gave the lizards and amphibians this ability; for the