

Communications

Predestination and Human Prudence (Part One)

David Simpson (“Predestination and Human Prudence” *New Church Life*, Nov. 2006) quotes *Divine Love and Wisdom* 83 where it says that “all influx from the spiritual world is effected by correspondence.” He says that organisms that cause disease were brought into existence by man’s choosing to submit to the influx from hell and to appropriate evil in the misuse of his spiritual freedom. I may be misunderstanding him, but I think he is missing an important aspect of the science of correspondence. The material aspect of organisms themselves was not brought into existence but their evil spiritual significance, not for God but for man, was created by his fall from a celestial state. He then got “a warped view of everything,” as Swedenborg says in *Arcana Coelestia* 210. The organisms are not evil in themselves, but man makes them evil because they seem to attack his material, unregenerate proprium. It is the influx of evil materialism that blinds the mind to the God-centered, rather than the man-centered nature of this science. This is the implication I get from reading *Divine Love and Wisdom* 339, which David quotes at length in his article (page 333).

When we consider the overwhelming dominance of the world by human beings, with all the attendant ‘evils’ such as global warming, it seems to me that man is a material parasite on the world and all the other creatures with which we share it. To adapt David’s words, we feed and are sheltered while contributing nothing to the survival of our host, that is, the globe.

The position taken by our unregenerate proprium is a negation of *Arcana Coelestia* 46, which David quotes, where Swedenborg quotes Joel 2.22 “Fear not you beasts of the field for the dwelling places of the wilderness have been made green.” *Entamoeba histolytica*, in moderate numbers, is an essential

contributor to the balance of nature, but since evil entered the world we, mankind, assume that anything whatsoever that threatens the material life of a person is evil, and to express that concept we label as evil creatures perfectly innocent in themselves. We no longer live in spiritual harmony with nature and this, I think, causes David's and Darwin's problem when considering its apparent underlying misery.

David traces the path of *entamoeba histolytica* through the body. Why does he say it corresponds to evil? Regeneration works in exactly the same way in the gradual reformation of the entire man. 'Histolytica' means in Greek 'flesh dissolution'. If the fleshly liver (excuse the pun) is evil, *entamoeba* serves a valuable function in destroying it. If the 'disease' leads to final death of the body and resurrection to new life in the spiritual realm, then *entamoeba* is a thoroughly good thing, as it was and is when the Lord saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.

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