

peninsula. In these lands, they united with other favorable strains, thus establishing the ancestry of the human race." But what archeological evidence is there to support the contention in The Urantia Book that Homo sapiens originated in India? Until recently, there was virtually no evidence.

A recent article¹ told of a portion of an ancient skull and stone implements found in central India. The tools are similar to those found in Africa that date to between 150,000 and 250,000 years ago. This finding supports a theory that the ancestors of early Homo sapiens evolved in India at the same time as in Africa. While this shows that early Homo sapiens was present in India 250,000 years ago, this number is far short of the million year age for the origin of mortals given in The Urantia Book. Apparently, we have yet to find the fossils of the actual precursors of Homo sapiens. But, we are told where to look.

The book tells us that we can find the fossils of the transition creatures "...in the Siwalik Hills of northern India...", (720B.) If this is so, then what are paleontologists like George Leaky finding in Africa? In a recent article², Dr. Ken Galsziou supports the theory that the precursors to human beings developed simultaneously in both Africa and Asia, but that the African hominids failed to develop into Homo sapiens or "will creatures" as The Urantia Book calls us. But there may be another way to explain the African fossils, namely devolution or degeneration. On page 718, The Urantia Book mentions the degenerate stocks of the primates who lived to the south of the Andites. Mentioned on page 719 is the later intermixing of the eastern Andonites with very inferior "mongrel" groups. Also on page 719 we read, "These tribes were so largely mixed with the forest apelike creatures that they were scarcely human." It seems possible that some of the "forest apelike creatures" as well as the so called "mongrels" might have migrated to Africa over the Sicilian land bridge mentioned in the book (826D,891A.) The only problem with this theory is the time factor. The bones of hominids have been dated to an age of several million years, but Andon and Fonta appeared about a million years ago. Is it possible that both theories, degeneration and parallel evolution, are correct? Perhaps the remains of hominids older than one million years represent an evolutionary path that occurred several million years ago in Africa, but which did not result in human beings. Remains of hominids younger than a million years old in Africa ma

Fuzzy logic is not Winnie the Pooh's arithmetic homework. Rather, it is an attempt to emulate human problem solving. The ordinary computer program tends to give on/off yes/no answers, but there are many things we do that require something in between.

Consider throwing a ball into a basket. If you throw too hard, the ball overshoots the basket. If you throw with too little force, the ball won't reach the basket. Somewhere in-between the too hard and the too easy throw, there is an OK zone. Using fuzzy logic, the computer can keep a process in the OK zone. Such computer programs are now being used in some of the newest cars to control such things as braking.

The latest whiz bang technology is called virtual reality. Virtual reality places you in a space that is totally computer created. You see a computer generated three dimensional picture in a helmet that has two small screens, one for each eye. You also wear a glove covered with sensors that sense the movement of your hand. You can move from room to room or outside in a computer generated house by pointing with your hand. You can pick up objects and move them to new locations or even throw them at the wall. There is even a program that allows two people to be in the same virtual reality and toss a virtual ball back and forth! The people who make electronic games are cooking up all sorts of expensive virtual reality toys in their top secret labs, but virtual reality has some much more serious uses. A home could be custom designed and shown to prospective buyers without ever being built. The buyers could tour the virtual reality home and suggest changes that could be incorporated in the virtual home as they watched. There is even speculation that a student doctor might be able to perform surgery on a virtual patient! The future promises to be a pretty interesting place. But how far can we go? Will we ever create a machine that has self-consciousness or even consciousness?

The Urantia Book indicates that we are self-conscious will creatures because the Father endows us with personality. Personality, the seat of human identity cannot be bestowed on a machine. Yes, the brain is a biological mechanism, but it is the mind that does the thinking and it is the mind through which the personality expresses itself. Since the Mother Spirit is not likely to endow a computer with mind, computers can never achieve self-consciousness and probably not even consciousness.

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