



WHERE DID FAITH IN GOD COME FROM?

From: Orthodox Apologetic Theology, I.M. Andreyev,
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The following excerpt is from the book, *Orthodox Apologetic Theology*, by I.M. Andreyev, St. Herman Press. It is an appendix to the larger book, but is so profoundly simple, convincing and moving that it has been reproduced in this booklet for the purpose of more general reading.

APPENDIX II

Where Did Faith in God Come From?

by F. L. Melnikov

EDITOR'S PREFACE

WHEN the communist philosophy of atheism was spread through intense propaganda in order to overthrow and overshadow Orthodox Christianity, it was unable to erase one thousand years of the mystical experience of a whole people—the Russian and Slavic people who were spread throughout almost half of the globe. Although the atheist-communist tyranny lasted for seventy years and devastated Russia with anarchy, lawlessness, barbarism and a return to paganism, it did not really touch the heart of the Russian people. This was because the spiritual reality of Orthodox experience raised up an inward opposition in the spirit of Christian *apologia*, and simple people rose up in defense of common sense, naturally refusing to see the world as something two-dimensional, pragmatic and shallow, as it is seen in the cosmology of the apostate West. Western civilization did not sit right with Russians. Many Russians, it is true, deeply enjoyed the flowers of the Western world, but the Western enjoyment of the fruits of the earth remained still very earthly, fading away and rotting, and leaving emptiness in place

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of a deep yearning for God—a yearning expressed in Byzantine culture.

The Appendix we present is a glimpse of how the grassroots of Russian civilization reacted to the Western temptation of being freed from God and His commandments. This temptation simply made no sense to the average man, who saw God as the head of civilization, as the primary force behind man's equilibrium in the world. This balance is essential for growth, like the roots in a growing tree, and it is indispensable for those wanting to lead a life with God. Western civilization today is rapidly losing this balance. The temptation to seek infernal satisfaction by warring against God is undermining our society, and the militant atheism that hit Russia is now at the door of each member of modern society.

In order to survive, each modern man or woman must learn from the Russian experience the art of defending his or her own sanity—and this requires a solid understanding of Orthodox Christian Apologetics.

The following debate represents a symptomatic phenomenon of Russian village life in the 20th century. We present it here as an exposition of Apologetic Theology on a popular level, on the level of simple people who want to lead a balanced, normal life. I. M. Andreyev, on the other hand, represents the Russian intelligentsia: he broke out of that very milieu which introduced godlessness into a Christian society rooted deeply in the mystical experience of the Church Fathers. Due to his extensive education, Andreyev presents the study of Orthodox Apologetics on a scientific level. His scientific study, we believe, will be accentuated by the following simple debate on a popular level.

1. A PUBLIC DEBATE IN SOVIET RUSSIA

In Pokrovsky village the communist cell was quite busy: they organized the local peasants and gathered them in meetings to “enlighten” them. Lately they had begun to organize a struggle against religion, in an attempt to indoctrinate the population with the idea that religion is a superstition, and that therefore only uncivilized, illiterate people could accept it. Speakers from a nearby city were invited to these meetings for propaganda purposes. Posters announcing the next meeting were displayed on the walls of the local soviet offices, and sometimes even on the gates of the church. In the beginning, people showed interest in these meetings. The speakers displayed plenty of fervor; they promised many things and predicted a wonderful future for working people. Later on, however, people lost interest in the speakers who kept on repeating the same thing and whose promises never came true. The living conditions worsened every day. Shortly before Nativity, a poster appeared on the church gate. It said that on December 25, the propagandist Matunin would come to the village to make a speech, the topic of which would be “Where Did Faith in God Come From?” and which was to be followed by a discussion. Identical posters appeared by the school and at the municipal administration quarters. The people of the village were interested. The discussion interested them the most. The village people liked to listen to debate; however, nobody knew who would be able to debate Matunin.

2. THE COUNTRYSIDE SOCIOLOGIST

Three miles from the village there lived by his bee garden a well-known farmer: Damian Lukich Missly. Nobody called him by his family name, but rather “Damian Lukich” or simply “Lukich.” He was not old and in quite good health. From his

youth on, he used to go to the big ruins of earth and brickable
 human foundations. He often thought that he was the only
 bricklayer left standing in Warsaw. Others had come and
 gone, but he was always there to tell and to teach them in
 many of them looked at Damian Lukich with some hope.
 to go writing and printing. He carefully observed Lukich
 Everyone wanted to see the debate about faith with curiosity. Some
 big cities and also to ask. Lukich said, "When I had learned
 people were quite sure that Damian Lukich would not be able
 in a few weeks and had all the sciences by heart, as each of them
 to say anything against his well educated opponents because he
 delivered every day because of his education and his great strength
 was only a simple peasant. Others expected a lot from him,
 always to be a teacher in his school and he left the meeting
 because they knew that despite his limited education, he was a

[illegible]

Even my best friends are afraid to be made ridiculous, whereas we know that the ancient Chinese were not afraid even of them. We obviously have reached the era where lawlessness is

These cases of hate speech have shown that diversity is not a shield against discrimination. Hate speech is a tool of oppression, and it is the responsibility of all of us to stand up against it. We must not allow hate speech to go unchecked, and we must not allow it to become a part of our culture. We must stand up for the rights of all people, and we must stand up for the values of our society. We must stand up for the values of our society, and we must stand up for the values of our society.

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ning from one of God's creations to another one. He even did not notice that the break was over. He was thinking. Suddenly a new voice called him out of his meditation. This was the chairman of the meeting, who came to the village with the speaker Matunin.

6. AN APPEAL TO DEBATE

“Comrades,” he said to the audience, “we now will have an exchange of opinions on the topics mentioned in the speech. Whoever would like to debate the speaker or ask any questions, please come to the speaker’s desk.” Nobody answered, including Damian Lukich. The chairman repeated himself, and this time also nobody replied. Everybody looked at Damian Lukich. He remained silent. Finally, after the chairman repeated his offer for the third time, someone in the audience replied: “We would like Damian Lukich to debate the speaker!” “Are you going to debate?” inquired the chairman, who already knew about Damian Lukich from his comrades. “No,” said Damian Lukich quietly, “I did not have the intention to debate; I would only like to ask some questions.”

7. THE BEGINNING OF THE DEBATE

“Do you want to ask something?” asked Matunin politely. “Yes, my dear friend,” said Damian Lukich with some hesitation and in a very low voice. “Speak up! Go to the desk!” insisted the people in the audience. Damian Lukich was invited to the stage, and Matunin remained at the desk. Now everybody could see Damian Lukich and his courage seemed to grow, perhaps because of eye contact. He felt more secure and began to speak louder and more clearly. He had a strong and pleasant voice, and his speech was correct because reading was his hobby. He had the habit of saying “my good friend” frequently.

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"You told us a lot, my good friend," said Damian Lukich, "about different people and their faith. It was a pleasure to listen to you. But you are wrong that these people invented God. God is eternal and existed before the creation of the world." "How do you know?" asked Matunin very politely. "Wait a little. You will soon find out." "Don't interrupt him!" cried people from the audience. "In wisdom hast Thou created all ..." began Damian Lukich, referring to the Psalms. But behind his back some young people started to laugh. "He begins with the Scriptures, with Psalms" whispered some people sarcastically. Damian Lukich stopped for a second and then said: "I do not want to ask about the Scriptures, but about nature and life created by God. Thus, for example, I have bees in my garden." The communists laughed again, and again interrupted him. One of them said loud enough for Damian Lukich to hear it: "Now he starts his nonsense again!" Not discouraged, however, Damian Lukich did not abandon his bees and continued.

8. FIRST QUESTION: THE BEES

"So, you see, these bees display a wonderful wisdom. They construct their cells so nicely and so regularly, that we never would be able to imitate them. I have read in some of your books that a bee could outsmart any architect, so wisely are her cells built. There is still more wisdom in the way she harvests and preserves the honey. Even the greatest scholars in the world would not be able to do it. So, my dear friends," said Damian Lukich to the speaker and to his communist comrades, "would you please explain where the bees obtained that wisdom? Who taught them to act in such an intelligent way?"

Matunin answered promptly: "It must be taken into consideration that bees are guided by the so-called instinct. Instinct causes them to, as you say, act wisely. Instinct is subconscious. The bees do not know what they are doing; their work is not

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understandable to them. Instinct is also found in human nature. Thus, for example, if someone attacks you, you subconsciously would raise your arm in defense. You would do that without thinking, without reasoning, as if your arms would raise automatically. Your arms, in that case, would be set in motion by a peculiar force, which is called instinct. And here is another example; suppose that a strong light is suddenly directed on your eyes. Your eyes would immediately have a tendency to squint and your pupils will become smaller. This happens subconsciously, so that your intellect and your willpower do not even participate in it; it would even happen against your will. This is instinct. Of course, the eye does not realize what it is doing, for the eye itself does not possess any intellect, but it is nevertheless to its benefit because it is thus protected against excessive light. Do you now understand what it is all about?"

The young people were quite satisfied with Matunin's explanation. His approach was plain, like the one of a teacher in a class. His communist comrades were also quite satisfied, and their respect for him increased. They looked at this debate as at a cat and mouse playing. But they would soon find out that Damian Lukich was not a mouse, but rather a shrewd, sophisticated cat.

9. THE SPEAKER EXPERIENCES HIS FIRST TROUBLE

Damian Lukich answered quietly and with dignity: "I understood what you said, but you did not understand my question. Let us accept the idea that the bees act according to their instinct. But where did the wisdom of that instinct come from? Who taught it to them? Who gave them that wisdom? Do you now understand me?" This time there was also no hesitation in Matunin's answer: "Oh yes, I also understood you the first time, only I did not finish my explanation. As I see, you now realize

Well, it has been created through habit. Instinct is habit. We, for example, have been accustomed from childhood to use our feet to walk, and now we do not have to think how to use our feet. Or they do it themselves through habit or instinct. We have many habits; we do not even notice most of them. Thus, when we write we do not watch the movements of our hand. I cannot permit discussion of things which have nothing to do with the speech and are therefore irrelevant. But the audience supported Damian Lukich, and insisted: "Let Damian Lukich speak! His questions are to the point! The bees will show you where faith in God came from! Please answer his questions! You should now know the origin of their instinct; you should also be able to understand who gave them this astonishing

10. DARWINISM

Meanwhile, Maupin was preparing his lighted sword with many bees. Babes in spirit had which everything seemed to them to be the simple and simple. That is, to take it for granted without making any effort to analyze the question and in a simple manner forced them to think by scholars. He thought it was "fact" that should answer the question. With a certain amount of "the bees," he was so so directly that it was "dupes" who would ask him to "and why is it that nature complicated with the same wisdom they cannot?" and why they could answer something. That is so he said: "There is without the theory called Darwinism, the amount of it is 25% of a 19th and a 20th century scholar to a certain scientific substance in the world every thing continually develop and improve from a fermentation process is called evolution. Millions of years ago, animals and plants were different, they were not as well developed as they are now. They developed gradually, and of a selection continually takes place. Whatever is weak and maladjusted we do not know even now, whatever is strong, we may as well as just as well as we do, and becomes stronger. The struggle for existence takes place every

“We should, for example, pay attention to what cattle-breeders are doing. They cross different races of horses, cows, pigs or sheep, select the best ones and thus raise new breeds of animals. This is called selection. The gardeners do the same thing with plants. The newly acquired qualities are transmitted through heredity. Observe people: children come from their parents. They inherit their faces, bodies, manners, habits, etc. Everything is transmitted through birth.

“The same thing took place with bees. Through evolution, for instance, through development and selection they have reached today’s perfection. That is where their ability, which you call wisdom, came from.

The communist youth liked Matunin's answer and greeted it with applause. "The question is settled!" concluded the chairman, solemnly. But Damian Lukich was not at all in the mood to abandon his question. He paid no attention to the chairman nor to the triumphant cries of the communist youth, and continued:

“You quite correctly referred to cattle-breeders and gardeners, my good friend. They are wise people. One of my good friends in the town is a gardener. He has shown me what he could accomplish. All these new kinds of plants are just marvelous. And I once asked him whether he could grow potatoes out of turnips. But he said that I am a dumbhead because such things are impossible, for every plant has its own laws of development and nobody can modify them.

“To make it more plain, he gave me the example of the carpenter, who is able to make wonderful things out of wood, but it always remains wood; it will never be iron. And vice-versa: nobody can make a wooden thing out of iron. Such are the laws of nature. Take, for example, a dead tree: you can graft anything

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you want to that tree, but nothing will come out of it, because in a dead tree there is not life anymore and therefore no laws; everything has perished."

"What you say is irrelevant. Come closer to the topic of the speech," said the chairman. "All that refers very much to the topic," said Damian Lukich, and addressed himself further to Matunin:

"So, my dear friend, please explain to me, how does it work: the gardener creates new kinds of plants; the cattle-breeder, new animal races; and who taught the bees how to build cells and manufacture honey? Who is that gardener or that bee-keeper? That is the question to which I would like to get an answer from you."

"What an importunate peasant!" thought the chairman. As for Matunin, he was not in a hurry to give the answer. Therefore, Damian Lukich went on further: "It is not easy to graft a plant. It requires a lot of knowledge and wisdom. But we simply cannot imagine how much wisdom it takes to teach bees. So, my greatly respected friend, please, do not hide the identity of the teacher of the bees from us. Tell us who taught them that enormous wisdom. Please, do not keep it a secret!"

11. NATURE

"I've already answered that question," said Matunin. "Nature itself is the great teacher of life. It produces, teaches, selects; nature does everything." "God bless you," said Damian Lukich, and stopped for a moment, as if he were thinking about something very important. The communists began to laugh. "Why does that dumbhead pester us with his bees?" said some of them; whereas others, who were more kind-hearted, pitied him because of his alleged "stupidity." The chairman was happy; he thought that "this obtrusive peasant" was finally satisfied with the answer and was not going to importune Matunin with his

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bees anymore. But the chairman was wrong. To Damian Lukich this was only the beginning of important questions, whereas the bees were only a means, permitting him to better present the problem.

After he thought a while, Damian Lukich asked: "And what is nature?" "Nature is all that surrounds us, all that we see, all that exists around us. The sky, the stars, the oceans, the soil, the plants, the whole animal world." "Would you please explain to me," said Damian Lukich, "which nature taught to the little bees such great wisdom, a wisdom which our scholars could not yet reach. Perhaps the sun taught it to them, or the oceans, or perhaps some animals did the teaching? It is well-known that even hundreds of stupid people would not be able to teach any wisdom to one single person; whereas, one clever person is able to teach hundreds of people. Who is the clever being who was able to teach any wisdom to one single person; whereas, one clever person is able to teach hundreds of people. Who is the clever being who was able to teach such wonderful things to the little bees?" "Here he is with his bees once again," said one of the communists. But there was no laughter anymore. Obviously, even these poor brainwashed people began to grasp that the "bee's problem" is not a joke, but a direct answer to the topic of the report "Where Did Faith In God Come From?". The rest of the audience was listening to the debate with great interest. "I already explained," said Matunin, "that bees are guided in their acts by instinct, not by intellect. They have neither intellect, nor will." "This is even more marvellous," said Damian Lukich, "it is easy to teach something to a person, who has an intellect and is able to speak. But certainly you would perform a miracle if you were able to teach a cow or a horse how to read and write. A yet greater miracle is to teach little insects, the bees, to perform marvelous things, which even the great scholars are unable to do. Would you finally say who performed that

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miracle!? Who is that teacher, able to instruct little insects how to act with such great wisdom. Who is He? Please answer!" Damian Lukich knew that the Truth is on his side and he now realized that the victory of the Truth was near. Matunin felt very embarrassed and so were his comrades, the communists. Finally, the chairman attempted to get out of trouble by announcing a 15 minute break.

12. THE BREAK

During the break time people began to talk. Those who believed in God surrounded Damian Lukich and thanked him, telling him how happy they were. But there was disarray in the opposite camp. Among young communists atheism was frequently superficial, similar to dust which can be swept away without trouble. The questions of Damian Lukich, like a salutary breeze, had blown away that dust. In fact, many communist youth hardly ever thought about questions related to God. That is why, some time ago, they were impressed by the agitators who bluntly declared that there is no God, that God had been invented by cave men, etc.; the honest but unsophisticated youth accepted atheistic prophecies promptly and without critical analysis. As for the Marxist recruiters, they certainly did their best to persuade their converts that in professing the godless faith they allegedly learn some "new, modern and original and progressive science" which makes them more educated and therefore superior to others. Damian Lukich, through his invitation to critical thinking, made them realize that the atheistic faith attempts to keep people in ignorance, away from logic, and requires a blind, slavish obedience to an indoctrination which nobody dares to check. These young people now refused to further naively accept the Marxist brainwashing procedure. They had enough courage and sincerity to tell their comrades that Matunin's "scientific" theory is a hoax, that a simple

14. THE ATHEISTIC BLUFF

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After the break, Matunin began in his usual friendly and polite way and said: "The question of Damian Lukich is of great scientific interest. It refers, however, scholars' weight, not to natural science, or rather to physics. The bees he asks about refer to 'natural sciences' where the forces which cause them to act the way they do refer to physics. Have nothing to do with God! It is only their visible effect. If Damian thinks his idea is so good, why show their wisdom likely because he has a good command of nature! Scholars have a different attitude of mind. They are the 'righted people'. Science is the only way to find the truth. It is not visible, but it is how of privilege for class and order already. It is not dead matter in Marxist which is a long known and a very young in itself, so-called energy. They say hidden forces. Our class forces would not be in the claiming, to be and energy are not so obvious, but we could use it to simplify our task. Such a potential force could be converted into a kinetic one, that is, into a moving force. It also could produce heat. If you hit a stone hard against another one, you would notice that they become warmer. Sometimes we would even see sparks. Thus, we can see that there are many hidden forces even in a simple dead stone. These forces are invisible, they are hidden, but they exist. They generate motion, heat, light. There is also in nature a force called the force of attraction or of gravity. A stone drops on the ground, not because it is heavy, but because of the force of gravity. Look at the sky, where the sun, the moon, the planets, the stars are located. What holds them? They have no brakes and yet they travel in a very regular way. They follow the right way. They move so exactly, so exactly, that the astronomers can tell many years ahead when a eclipse of the sun or of a comet would take place. The question would then be asked: 'What holds all these

planets? Who leads them in such a perfect way? The scholars discovered that there is in nature a force, called the force of gravity. Every planet has in itself such a force and attracts other planets through it. That's why they don't drop into space, but move in a regular way, attracting each other with an even strength. We cannot see, feel or hear that force, but it is there without any doubt. For the scholars it is self-evident, but uneducated people would have trouble understanding it."

Matunin's speech made a good impression. The communists felt better. Damian Lukich was listening very attentively, as Matunin went on: "There are many mysterious incomprehensible forces in the world. You probably know about the existence of magnets. A simple piece of iron attracts different metals. The compass needle is always drawn to the North. The exact nature of magnetic force is not known, nor is that of electricity. All the mysterious, hidden, inconceivable forces I just mentioned are mainly acting in the so-called dead nature. However, the living nature has still more riddles, and one is the instinct of bees. Some mysterious, unknown force is behind that instinct. We have no way to examine it, but it certainly exists; and it is precisely this force which is the teacher of the bees about whom Damian Lukich is asking."

15. THE UNSEEN AND UNKNOWN FORCES OF NATURE

For Damian Lukich this answer was a real pleasure. He quite sincerely thanked the speaker and said: "God save your soul, my dear, beloved friend, for this intelligent explanation. We certainly can see that you are a clever and well-educated person. You know, one day two comrades came to me and began to argue about the existence of God and about nature. They kept on repeating that there is nothing in the world but nature—no mysteries, no unconceivable forces. They insisted that the only

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thing which exists is matter. They even made me lose my patience. Finally, I told them that they were dumbheads and stopped the conversation. In fact, we know that it is impossible to convince a dumbhead, for not being able to analyze, he believes any kind of nonsense and even propagates it. But you are well-educated and intelligent, and it is always a pleasure to talk to a clever person. I would also like to ask you kindly to explain to me something else about the bees' teacher: Don't you think that it certainly was not electricity which taught them how to build cells and prepare honey?"

"Of course not!" exclaimed Matunin. "Neither the magnet?" "No." "What force, then, taught them to act in such a miraculous way? Don't you think that this is an intelligent force; not a blind one?" insisted Damian Lukich. "Nothing is known about it," answered Matunin, irritated, "the scholars did not yet clarify that question." The question about the mysterious force teaching wisdom to bees was so interesting, and the only possible answer appeared to be so simple and so clear, that Damian Lukich could not part with it half-way. He, therefore insisted: "Let's presume that we found somewhere a book and read it and that we found its content to be extremely interesting because of its enormous wisdom. What, in your opinion, should we think about its author?" "We certainly would have to admit that he is a great scholar or a writer of genius," answered Matunin reluctantly. "So we see to what conclusion would that book bring us! We can only ascribe it to a learned and wise person," remarked Damian Lukich. "Even a blind one can now see what is going on!" said somebody in the audience. And Damian Lukich continued: "Let's suppose, my dear one, that we arrived in a big city and saw a wonderful, beautifully constructed house. We certainly would conclude that it has been built by a great architect, isn't it so?" Matunin nodded. "Or, again, let us imagine that we came to a factory, where we saw

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an enormous, surprisingly complicated, wonderful engine. Isn't it obvious that each one of us would certainly recognize that it did not come into existence by itself, but was invented and planned by an intelligent person?"

16. THE WAY TO GOD

Matunin did not answer, but was now listening with great respect to Damian Lukich, who gradually was bringing him closer to God, as he said: "While observing the wisdom of the little bee, it becomes obvious that the one who created and taught her was neither stupid nor blind, but very clever. Just think what wonderful things a bee knows. Who, for example, could teach her to add to the honey a certain disinfecting substance to keep it from fermentation? You say that she acts unconsciously. That means that there is somewhere an intellect and a will which guide her. Who, then, is doing the thinking for her? And what wonderful, powerful thinking! In order to add some disinfectant to the honey one must discover it in nature, know its properties, determine its ingredients and their proper amount. How could the little bee know all that? The scholars need decades to understand the nature of that disinfecting substance, and the little bee finds it immediately without any trouble whatsoever. What should we say about such a wisdom? Who instructed her in such a way that there is no error in her work? Obviously, the One Who knows the properties of all things, Who is able to make a little insect so wise, that scores of scholars have to admire it; the One to Whom the whole of nature obeys, the One Who gave to nature her forces and her laws. Isn't it so, my dear friend?" asked Damian Lukich.

"Who is that, then?" asked Matunin in turn. "The Almighty God," said Damian Lukich reverently, "He Who in wisdom has made them all" (Psalm 103). "Everybody can think as he wants," said Matunin. "But nevertheless, my dear friend, tell us, who in

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your opinion, taught the little bee to act so wisely.” “I already said it; the question is settled,” said Matunin angrily and gloomily. “Can’t you say anything relevant to the topic of the speech?” said the chairman to Damian Lukich. But Damian Lukich didn’t even pay attention to him and continued, addressing himself to Matunin: “As I understand, you agree that a good book proves that it has been written by a talented writer, and a good machine proves that it has been planned by a famous technologist. But a bee’s activity is wiser than any book and more wonderful than any machine. This means that the bee has been taught by a Superior Being, wiser than creatures, more intelligent than the scholars of the whole world. Isn’t it so?”

17. ABOUT SAVAGES

Matunin remained silent. He was so deeply absorbed in thinking that he did not even hear the question. “I would ask you again to try to say something relevant to the topic of the speech!” said the chairman, who continued: “It has been explained to you that faith in God was generated among the savages because of their ignorance; that’s what you should talk about, otherwise I am not going to permit you to talk.” The people in the audience asked him to allow Damian Lukich to speak and to give an answer to the question about the creation of bees and their wisdom. However, this did not pacify the chairman, and he kept on insisting that Damian Lukich speak about the generation of the faith in God by primitive man. He finally threatened to close the meeting. “As a matter of fact, what I say does refer to the topic and is quite relevant. Please, permit me to read you something from the Holy Scripture concerning the savages,” said Damian Lukich calmly and took a Bible out of his pocket. The audience was listening breathlessly. The communists did not laugh anymore about Damian Lukich reading from the Scriptures. Realizing that the meeting was a

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complete failure, some of them had already left, and others were leaving, while others remained in the audience. Their curiosity was excited by the way the peasant debated the communist intellectuals—the “protectors of the working class against poverty and exploitation.”

“Please permit me to read from the *Wisdom of Solomon*, said Damian Lukich, and continued: “For all men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God, and who from the good things seen did not succeed in knowing Him Who is, and from studying the works did not discern the Artisan.”

“That is exactly what happens to you,” explained Damian Lukich, “you see God’s creation, observe His endless wisdom, but are unable to perceive the Creator. Are you then any better than all these Brushmen and Tenetets?” “*Bushmen* and *Hottentots*,” corrected the chairman with a proud smile.

Damian Lukich kept on reading: “But either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods. Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is He Who made them. For from the greatness of the beauty of created things their original Author by analogy is seen. But yet, for these the blame is less; for they indeed have gone astray perhaps, though they seek God and wish to find Him. For they search busily among His works, but are distracted by what they see, because the things seen are fair. But again, not even these are pardonable; for if they so far succeeded in knowledge that they could speculate about the world, how did they not more quickly find its Lord?” (Wisdom 13: 1-9)

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"You see," said Damian Lukich, "savages are considered to be uncivilized people; no wonder they are misled. But how about you? How is it possible that you, the intellectuals, are unable to realize that an intelligent creation could only be the result of work of a much wiser Creator; that the wisdom of the Creator should always be much more powerful than the wisdom of the creation?"

"No admonitions, please!" said the chairman, angrily. But Damian Lukich continued: "St. Paul, the supreme Apostle, said: 'The wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those men who in wickedness hold back the Truth of God, seeing that what may be known about God is manifest to them. For God has manifested it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen—His everlasting power also and divinity—being understood through the things that are made. And so they are without excuse.'" (Romans 1:18-20)

"One little bee," continued Damian Lukich, "is such a wonderful testimony of the wisdom and power of God! The atheists cannot deny it. They therefore remain silent. Faith in God has not been invented by savages: it is an inborn gift of God. It is in the nature of man, just like the shape of his body, his intellect and feelings. And a human being, just like a tree, can develop abnormally, degenerate, become ugly, stupid, faithless. His upbringing and his will are the main factors. Man received his reason and will as God's gifts and he has also the freedom of choice between good and evil."

18. THE SPEAKER'S MEDITATION

✓ Meanwhile Matunin left the desk and took a seat somewhere in the corner and began to think, not paying attention to all that was happening around him. He was a sensitive man with a warm heart and a lively intellect. He read many books, but

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had been submitted to a careful, very sophisticated brainwashing procedure, so that his education gradually became biased and one-sided. He admired Darwinism, but understood it in a superficial way. His approach to natural phenomena was oversimplified. He believed in laws which organize matter, but overlooked the fact that matter does not create laws, which are spiritual values, unthinkable without a Legislator. Darwinism had been for him an ultimate solution, until the question of a simple peasant puzzled him.

"In fact," thought Matunin, "how could we give a Darwinian explanation to the abilities of the bees? They have a very well-organized distribution of work: some build cells and gather honey, others protect the hive, others clean it. As for the queen, the only thing she does is produce eggs. The drones do not perform any work at all. The varied bee's occupations are caused by various abilities. Where do these abilities come from? They cannot receive them from the queen because she does not have them. They cannot have them from the drones, because the drones don't do anything and are themselves born from unfertilized eggs. Who, then, gives them these wondrous abilities? If a wolf would bring to the world a posterity able to fly and to sing like a bird, would that not be a miracle? Through bees we are able to observe such miracles and no theory is able to explain them. The bees definitely obey some intelligent mysterious laws. But there are millions of similar miracles in the world, millions of such laws. Who, then, created the laws? Who is the Legislator? The endless Genius? Shouldn't we, therefore, admit that an endless, supernatural force of wisdom exists?"

"Yes, that force exists, we cannot deny it," thought Matunin. "And the best human brains are unable to imagine the endless power of that force. We even are unable to fathom the mysterious power of the bee's abilities. There are millions

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of such wonders in the world. Compared to them, the bees are only a drop in the endless ocean of wisdom."

19. DAMIAN LUKICH AND THE CHAIRMAN

Matunin did not speak anymore. He was so busy thinking about all these problems that he didn't even hear the beginning of the discussion between Damian Lukich and the chairman of the meeting. "Please, explain," said Damian Lukich, "who taught the birds how to migrate? Every year they leave our cold lands to go to warmer countries. They fly for thousands of miles and do not lose the right direction. In summertime they return to us again and even find their old nests. Who shows them the road?" (Damian Lukich considered the bees' question as sufficiently clarified).

"By the birds it is a matter of habit," answered the chairman. "The speaker already told you that habits are hereditary. The birds have been developing a habit to fly in a certain direction for thousands of years. Gradually the habit became an instinct, which is transmitted from one generation to another and is now part of the very nature of the birds." Why, then," said Damian Lukich, "do the migratory birds show us their miraculous abilities and even chickens are able to run around as soon as they are born, whereas we, the humans, need much time to learn to walk? Why didn't we develop such mysterious instincts, while the birds did?" "Such is the birds' nature," said the chairman. And this was the only thing he could answer.

20. ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE BIRDS

Damian Lukich kept on asking: "Who gave such a clever nature to the birds? Even a human being doesn't possess these abilities. You are an educated person, but you probably could get lost in our village because it is new for you. And young birds

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less than one year old find their way to foreign countries. They fly thousands of miles over forests, deserts, mountains and make no mistakes. More than that, they come back and find their nests. Is any man able to do that? We have maps and nevertheless frequently get lost. If we would put you in an airplane you would not know where to fly. And a little bird, with a head not bigger than a thimble, finds its way through such enormous distances. Who taught this wisdom to the bird? For Heaven's sake! Explain this to me, my dear friend!"

"I already told you that nature gave this ability to the birds," answered the chairman, not without hesitation and a little irritated. Damian Lukich shook his head. "The nature, therefore, should be a clever being if she is able to teach to the birds wisdom which even men do not possess!" The Chairman did not know what to say; he felt himself just as uncomfortable as Matunin did before. He then decided to get out of trouble using his power as the chairman of the meeting: "You keep on talking about your bees and your birds. This doesn't refer to the topic of our discussion. As chairman of the meeting I cannot allow this!"

21. THE RESTLESS AUDIENCE

The audience did not like the Chairman's words. People became restless and began to protest. One could repeatedly hear: "Don't evade the question! Answer!" The audience became noisy. The chairman was yelling, but there was so much noise that nobody could hear him. Matunin suddenly regained his previous mode of a communist agitator. He stood up and came to the table.

22. WHO IS MORE CLEVER—NATURE OR MAN?

"I must tell you," said Matunin, quiet and friendly as usual, "that nature as such does not possess any intelligence. We are able to think, to reason, to analyze situations, to make decisions; this proves that we are intelligent beings; nature is not able to do this; it does not think; it does not reason; it is not aware of its activity. Our great, famous socialist philosopher, Joseph Dizgen, once wrote: 'Neither in the motion of the stars, nor in the egg of a bird nor in the other natural phenomena is it possible to discover wisdom. Nature is blind.' This is the answer to your question!"

"God save your soul for this answer!" said Damian Lukich and asked: "Man is, therefore, more intelligent than nature?" "Certainly," said Matunin, reassured. "Man is able to think; he is an intelligent being. He forces nature to obey him, to work under his orders; whereas nature is only blind matter and automatic motion." "Tell me, my dear friend," said Damian Lukich, "is man, clever as he is, able to make a machine which would be able to think and to speak, not like a record player, but expressing thoughts independently, like a human being does?"

Matunin did not answer right away, and so Damian Lukich continued: "Trofinoushka, come over here," said Damian Lukich to a ten year old boy who was sitting in the first row. The boy came. Damian Lukich patted him on the back and asked some questions in a friendly way. The boy answered vividly and intelligently. "You see," said Damian Lukich to Matunin, "what a smart child has been made by a blind nature. I would like to know if man is able to make a machine which would be just as lively and as intelligent as this boy is. I am asking this because you just explained that man is intelligent, while

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nature is not. The same thing is told to the world by your great philosopher Yessel Tzitzkein."

"Joseph Dizgen!" corrected the chairman of the meeting reverently. Matunin did not expect any new trap from this uneducated peasant and answered eagerly: "Science develops fast. Its steady progress makes man more powerful and better informed, as new discoveries follow each other. Many things, which recently seemed to be beyond human abilities, belong now to daily life. If our ancestors were now resurrected, the modern world would seem to them to be a miracle. We now talk hundreds of miles away from each other. We swim under water. We fly. We possess very complicated reading, writing and calculating machines. We should believe that a time will soon come when science will create living beings, able to think and speak independently."

"That would be nice," said Damian Lukich, "one would be able to go to a factory and order himself any kind of kids according to his taste! And how about bees? Would they also fabricate some?" "Science is able to accomplish anything, including artificial bees!" said Matunin with certainty. "And why is science not able to do it now?" "Man has not yet reached that level of perfection." "And the stupid nature did reach it millions of years ago?" asked Damian Lukich his main question.

Matunin did not answer. He understood the enormous importance of that question. He now was beginning to gradually realize that human science is only on its way to explain some of the natural phenomena, whereas nature had been planned, organized, and created for millions of years with endless wisdom. What, then, should be the conclusion? thought Matunin. As if to give some answer to these thoughts, Damian Lukich went on.

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so dominated by the influence of his habit to obey Matunin, that he has been doing their work for thousands of years. It is a wonderful work! We, men, are unable to do that." "Here he is with his ideas on teleology," everything the development of the world is gradually adjusting in order to reach perfection. It is the struggle for existence, which has placed the birds in the process of creating new migrants for thousands of miles. The migration of birds is directly related to the weather. They fly like windmills because they can find a sufficient amount of food. If they cannot find it, they starve. It is a very stupid thing, but it is an inborn instinct which they automatically obey. This is my friend, what the birds can show us!" said someone in the crowd.

Matunin planned that these questions were to the point. He had planned to ask them to the chairman of the meeting, but he had not time to do so. He was planning to ask them to the chairman of the meeting, but he had not time to do so. He was planning to ask them to the chairman of the meeting, but he had not time to do so.

24. THE WISDOM OF NATURE'S EXPEDIENT. That nature is God. In both cases he had to recognize the existence of a Creative Force, of a Genius, the Great Legislator, who makes the laws which organize Nature's activity and development.

We, therefore, should presume that wisdom doesn't originally exist, but is created by habits in a surprisingly wise way," said Damian Lukich. Then he thought a while and asked: "Should we notice any intelligence in the technique, which makes the construction of an eye possible?" "Of course," said Matunin a little irritated. "And the one who invented planned and created the eye (or invented the laws, which cause the eye to develop) did he know the eye's purpose? Did he know what he was doing? Could he reason?" "Yes, he did!" "Good!" said Damian Lukich, "but this greater of the eye is the cleverer or perfecter science theory. But he was blind!" hypnotized by his past,

25. THE CREATIVE POWER IS AN ENDLESS GENIUS

✓ Honest by nature and feeling himself more and more liberated from the moral and intellectual slavery of Marxism, Matunin said: "The eyes must have been created by some wise force able to see and to reason." "Are the best of our scientists able to construct a living eye, which would be able to see." "Science is not that advanced yet," said Matunin, "but it is possible that it would one day create living eyes. Eyes are just like a camera." Damian Lukich kept on admiring the eyes: "It is surprising what a wonderful mechanism the eyes are!... Visual memory is also a wonder! Nobody knows what visual memory is and how it preserves the pictures. If you take an eye and cut it, you will find nothing. No pictures, nothing! And yet the pictures are located somewhere, but nobody knows where. Even if you would cut a whole head into small pieces: you will not find any pictures, or prints, or cameras. It is not photography, but a pure miracle!" Damian Lukich stopped for a moment and asked: "Who is more clever: human science, which after thousands of years is unable to create an eye or to explain its mysteries, or the Genius, Who created the eye?"

26. MATUNIN'S HESITATIONS

Matunin realized what such questions meant. He understood that Damian Lukich demonstrated the existence of God in a simple, but undeniable way; moreover, Matunin's answers backed up the logic of that demonstration so well, that he now felt a sudden change in his soul. There were moments when he was confused and hesitating between his old atheistic prejudices and the new truth, which became more and more obvious to him.

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Time and again he was tempted to either run away from the meeting, or to admit that God really exists, but is beyond human comprehension. After all, why oppose the truth which is so clear, so obvious! And then the well-indoctrinated atheistic narrowmindedness was returning and he again was tempted to try justifying the godless brainwashing propaganda. But as the discussion went on, he came closer to the acceptance of God. Once Matunin thought: "Oh! what an endless stupidity that Marxist superstition called atheism is! It claims to be 'scientific' but it is based on a naive faith professed by people who have been fooled. It is so unnatural, so perverted. It could be compared to a dead desert or a huge, dark abyss with all its lies and empty promises. It makes no sense, it has no foundation." He began having a real feeling of repulsion for the moral and intellectual futility of atheism. To the last question he gave a short and frank reply: "That Genius is more intelligent than human science."

"Who, then, is that Genius?" asked Damian Lukich. Matunin did not answer right away. This time his ambition was a hindrance to his newborn faith. After all, he was a Marxist public speaker. It was difficult to reject atheism so quickly. The grace of God did not yet reach his heart. He had a moment of embarrassed hesitation and then bashfully said: "It is a mysterious unknown force in nature." This was another answer in favor of the existence of God the Creator.

27. THE FLIGHT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman became angry, declared that the meeting was closed, and ordered the people to leave. But nobody moved. He, then, quite angry, left the meeting and threatened to use force. Nevertheless, Matunin also remained in the room and the discussion continued.

28. MIRACULOUSLY COMPLICATED ORGANISMS

Damian Lukich asked: "Could you explain why a little bird possesses all its features as it is still in the egg, that is to say, before birth?"

"Modern science discovered," said Matunin, "that a living organism, be it a plant or animal, is made out of countless, infinitely small particles called cells. Each organism develops from a so-called embryonic cell. This cell already contains a carefully prepared plan for the construction of the features of the plant or of the animal which will develop from it. These are: the shape, the size, the qualities, even the odor of a plant. All that is already foreseen in this cell. The embryonic cell of a human being—it is called the spermatozoon—already includes the characteristics of the person to be born. Can you imagine that! This endlessly small cell contains a full plan for the creation of a human being! The whole person is already designed. This includes: heart, brains, lungs, stomach, arms, legs, the five senses, etc."

"But this is a miracle!" exclaimed Damian Lukich, delighted. "It is not a miracle, but normal development of an organism," explained Matunin, who continued: "Please, don't forget that each spermatozoon is composed of an enormous number of molecules. Each molecule is divided into atoms and each atom is divided into electrons. And everyone of these particles has its place and fulfills its task. Everyone of them is needed for the construction of the cell."

29. THE COMPONENTS OF MATTER: THE ELEMENTS

The longer Damian Lukich listened, the more he admired the infinite greatness of the Lord God, the Creator. In his

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admiration he silently repeated the Jesus Prayer and the Psalm *In wisdom hast Thou made them all*. As soon as Matunin paused, Damian Lukich inquired: "From what material are all these particles made?"

"There are many different materials," answered Matunin, with dignity: "The components of the cell are: nitrogen, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, sulphur, phosphorous, chlorine, potassium, magnesium, iron, sugar, starch, calcium, etc. A cell is a very complicated compound of all sorts of elements."

"Oh, my Lord! How wonderful is all that!" exclaimed Damian Lukich in admiration. "Each cell is a wonderful building. It is like a luxury house, made with all kinds of materials. Isn't it so, my dear friend?" "Exactly!" said Matunin, "a cell is even much more complicated than the most magnificent of palaces." "But who is the Constructor of these mysteriously magnificent cells? Who is the Legislator of the laws, according to which they are built?" Damian Lukich persisted in asking.

30. THE CONSTRUCTOR OF THE CELLS

Matunin answered almost according to the pattern he had been indoctrinated to use. He, however, made reservations as he cautiously referred to "some scholars." He therefore said: "Some scholars think that cells, as well as whole organisms, are built according to the laws of chemistry and mechanics. In order to make it clearer, let's look at the following examples: If we put sugar or salt into water, they will melt. This could be called a chemical process. A clock works mechanically. It has a multitude of well-adjusted parts organized in a certain order. They fit so well together that the clock works as if it were alive. A mechanical process takes place also in a wind or water mill. Cells are constructed in a similar way, that is, according to the laws of chemistry or mechanics."

Matunin, once again, stressed that such are the ideas of "some scholars." He obviously was not quite satisfied with that explanation. After Matunin stopped, Damian Lukich said: "A clock is a very good mechanism, which shows us how smart the clock-maker is. He made the complicated plan and built the clock. The clock did not invent itself and did not construct itself. Every work is done by somebody and the clock is made by the clock-maker. The mill is a simple outfit, but it also has been made by people who know their job. Both the clock and the mill are quite simple, compared to the miraculous cell you just described. The cell is complicated and intelligently planned. It has been made by the billions for millions of years, and yet I doubt that all the scholars of the entire world would be able to produce a single one of them. Wouldn't you agree with me, my dear friend?"

"You are quite right!" said Matunin. "All the attempts to create an artificial cell have failed. One scholar even said that to create an artificial living cell is just as impossible as to artificially create a living horse." And that is precisely what I would like to know," said Damian Lukich, "who is that wise Architect able to construct the cell? According to what you just said, it was only after thousands of years that man finally discovered the cell and gathered information about its nature. How many years would a man need to be able to make one such cell? I think that millions of years would probably not be enough! And yet, the construction keeps on going, fast, easy, uninterrupted and correct. Day after day and century after century. Who is the worker?"

This time the results of the narrow-minded atheistic indoctrination appeared once again, and Matunin simply said: "The cell takes care of its own construction." Disappointed and sad, Damian Lukich answered: "You cannot say something like that

seriously. The cell must exist before it acts!" Matunin smiled and hesitated.

31. PLANS AND LAWS OF NATURE

Damian Lukich asked a new question: "Should it be recognized that the cell is built according to a plan?" "Of course," answered Matunin very seriously. "Otherwise, it would not make any sense whatsoever. Nothing in the world would be able to exist if the planning were not there. Chaos would reign. Order would disappear and so would life. The world would have no goal. In the cell we certainly perceive a goal, a definite intention. Thus we know that the human cell will produce a human being, not a tree or a cow; that the cell of a rose will produce a rose, not an apple tree, etc. Nature is guided by strict laws and outlines." "Are these laws and plans clever?" asked Damian Lukich impatiently.

Meanwhile, Matunin became more and more convinced that the truth was on his opponent's side. He now realized how absurd it would be to deny the existence of a creative Genius. He did not want to lie to himself as he thought: "Who is that Genius, that unknown Force?" That is why, answering the last question, he frankly said: "The plan of nature's development and of the laws which guide the universe are very clever. Nobody could honestly deny that. Who would, for example, dare to claim that the cells are not wisely made? All the scientists admire their wise construction." At that moment, Damian Lukich intended to say that laws and plans are ideas and that they, therefore, can only come from some Source of Wisdom, but Matunin, inspired by the topic, kept on talking.

32. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORGANISMS

"The construction of a living organism is even more amazing," continued Matunin. "There are cells used for the formation of bones (hard material), of the brain (an extremely complicated and clever apparatus), for the formation of the heart, the blood, etc. In the construction of an organism, different kinds of cells are used, according to a brilliant plan which permits them to develop in a certain way. There is a wonderful harmony between the plan of creation and the laws of development."

"Whose plans and laws are they?!" exclaimed Damian Lukich once again. But Matunin did not reply. He went on with great passion: "You just asked about the little bird in the egg. It is an interesting question. The bird also develops in the egg according to a plan. Its development accurately follows certain directions. Thus, to give you a simple example, a chicken egg will produce only a chicken, the egg of a duck will produce only a duck, etc. Even if the whole scientific world would put itself together, it would be unable to force a chicken egg to produce a crow or hawk. The egg does not obey man, but a higher force, according to whose laws and plans the development of the whole of nature takes place. Nobody can change the wisdom of the laws given to nature!"

33. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEED

"Seed is also constructed according to plans and laws," continued Matunin. "As soon as seed is put into proper soil, a well-planned, wise and expedient activity begins, and plants gradually and intelligently develop. A turnip seed yields only turnips—never cabbage, etc. The seed grows as if it were guided by a genius, who teaches it to do the right things and to avoid

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mistakes.” “These are miracles!” exclaimed Damian Lukich. “That’s right!” replied Matunin, “the whole world is full of such miracles. We see them everywhere: among plants, among animals, in dead matter (for example, in the motion of the planets), everywhere. The whole world is a miracle!”

34. A NEW, TRANSFORMED MATUNIN

Damian Lukich was surprised because Matunin spoke not like an atheist anymore, but like a person who admires the wisdom of God’s creation. It was as if they were now listening to a different person: not to Matunin who, not long ago, told them that God was invented by savages. The new, transfigured Matunin was explaining how the wisdom of creation shows that nobody invented God, because God exists and is the eternal source of wisdom.

People in the audience also wondered—what happened to the speaker? And it was true that Matunin was not the same anymore. He now thought: “Atheism is absurd. Its first enemy is reason. Reason destroys atheism like light destroys darkness. A reasonable person cannot be an atheist. The second enemy of atheism is nature. The wise laws, which organize nature, point at the absurdity of atheism. Without laws, chaos would reign, order would disappear, and so would life. Reasonable thinking leads us to the recognition of the Great Genius, Who is the cause of the miraculous plan of the universe. Atheism is a failure, an intellectual vacuum.”

Damian Lukich asked once again: “Who created this world?” “The wisely organized world is created by an Almighty Wisdom. Intelligent work can only be performed by an intelligent person. This is just as obvious as the fact that the sun gives light, not darkness,” answered Matunin. “Therefore God exists!” exclaimed Damian Lukich happily. “Yes, He does exist,” said Matunin softly, as if a little embarrassed.

35. THE VICTORY OF THE TRUTH

Damian Lukich was so happy that he made the Sign of the Cross several times and began to sing the prayer to the Holy Spirit: “O Heavenly King.” The whole audience joined him in singing that prayer to celebrate the victory of the truth. At that moment, the chairman returned, accompanied by armed soldiers. He gave the order “Fire!”, but the soldiers did not shoot. People were scared and left the building, doing their best to protect Damian Lukich from the Chairman’s anger. It was later learned that Matunin had been shot by the Chairman for “betraying scientific atheism.” That’s the way Matunin became a martyr for the Truth in the village of Pokovsoye.