

must have thought that the mountain above the city was Ararat and the Ark landed there. This supposed landing place of the ark appears to be based entirely on local tradition and it is not surprising that Julius Africanus had doubts about it.

I would go for Ararat in Parthia, because Julius Africanus quite reasonably identifies the Parthian Empire with Ararat, and it's much more in line with the other historical sources that were discussed by Bill Crouse in his original article.⁴

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References

1. Roberts, A. and Donaldson, J. (Eds.), *The Antebellum Fathers: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers down to AD 325*, Vol. VI including: *The Extant Fragments of the Five Books of the Chronography of Julius Africanus*, W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1978–1979. See also <www.ccel.org/fathers2/ANF-06/anf06-50.htm#P2221_636742>, 24 October 2003.
2. The history of Parthia and its wars against Rome is available from a number of sources: PARTHIA.COM <www.parthia.com>; *Illustrated History of the Roman Empire* <www.roman-empire.net>; Livius <www.livius.org/pan-paz/parthia/parthia01.html>; National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution <www.americanhistory.si.edu/csr/nnc/parthia/frames/phism.htm>, all accessed on 24 October 2003.
3. Bryant, J., *A New System or an Analysis of Ancient Mythology*, vol. 3, pp. 45–49, London, Printed for J. Walker & others, 1807. See also facsimile reprint of 1774 edition from Kesinger Publishing Co., 2003.
4. Crouse, B., The landing place, *TJ* 15(3):10–18, 2001.

Fun World amusement?

Thank you for the most recent copy of the *TJ*. I've renewed my subscription after a few years of not getting it, and it's great to be getting this kind of info again. My children

also enjoy the *Creation* magazine.

In Volume 16(3) Dr Bergman, in his article on Darwin's apemen and the exploitation of deformed humans concludes that,

'No doubt if someone attempted a similar show today, public outrage would rapidly shut the show down as racist and fraudulent. Unfortunately, the harm is now done, and cannot easily be undone.'

I would agree with Bergman's conclusion, and I wanted to bring to your attention that such shows, in fact, are still going on today.

While living in the United Arab Emirates, I subscribed to the local paper, *The Gulf Today*. I was surprised to see a photo last year which featured supposed throwbacks to our 'hominid ancestors'. Figure 1 is a copy of the photo which appeared in *The Gulf Today* on Sunday, 3 June 2001 (with an Agence-France byline).

The caption reads,

'THIS IS NO ENTERTAINMENT:

Murugeswari, a housewife and mother of two, looks over her brothers-in-law Armugam (left), Vinayaka Murthy (centre) and Elumalai (right) aged 52, 48 and 46 respectively; at the Fun World amusement park in Bangalore on Saturday. These three brothers, unable to speak any modern language and bearing the physical resemblance to our hominid ancestors, are being exhibited at the amusement park in a specially-built enclosure and can be seen for Rs10.'

Sadly, the exploitation of deformed humans as supposed 'proof' for evolution continues even today.

Does anyone at *AiG* know what sort of affliction/deformation has afflicted these brothers? A rare genetic disorder perhaps? They do look a lot like the photos of Neanderthals/Cromagnon man which are featured in evolutionist publications. Thanks for any insights you can give here.

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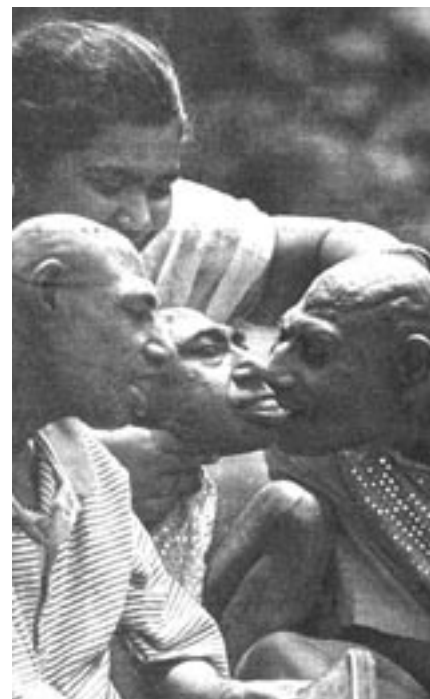


Figure 1. Murugeswari and her three brothers-in-law.

Jerry Bergman replies:

Judging from the photo (not an ideal way of diagnosis) it appears to be microcephaly, a general term for a condition caused by abnormally slow growth of the brain. Microcephaly often results from brain damage during development such as by teratogens (compounds that cause malformations of the foetus), genetic factors, or unknown factors said to be primary.

Jerry Bergman
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UNITED STATES of AMERICA

Willard Libby and carbon dating Egyptian artifacts

In reference to David Down's correspondence concerned with carbon dating and Egyptian chronology in *TJ* 17(2):70, 2003, I think most readers would be delighted to read what Wil-

lard Libby said about this very problem some forty years ago. Libby had developed the ^{14}C dating technique in 1948 and later received the Nobel prize for this work. As for any other method of measurement used in science, it was necessary for Libby to calibrate his equipment using samples of known age; in this case historically dated wooden coffin lids. He reported his work and the following quote is found as Libby's footnote to his paper, *Accuracy in Radio Carbon Dates*, published in *Science* vol. 140 (19 April 1963), p. 278:

'The Egyptian historical dates beyond 4,000 years ago may be somewhat too old, perhaps 5 centuries too old at 5,000 years ago.'

Libby's statement referred not to a publication but to a private communication with an authority on Egyptian dating, I.E.S. Edwards. This confession completely vindicates works such as Velikovsky's *Ages in Chaos* (1952) where this author asks the question: Are six hundred years missing from Israel's history, or have six hundred ghost years crept into Egyptian history? The six hundred added years have continued to cast doubt upon Israel's early history but it would be going beyond the limits of this letter to pursue this fascinating question. Sufficient to say that William Mure raised the same question in 1829 and concluded that the addition originated with the doubtful work of Jean-François Champollion.¹

Ian T. Taylor
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References

1. Taylor, I.T., *In the Minds of Men*, 3rd edition, TFE Publishing, Minneapolis, pp. 347, 349, 462 and notes 8 and 9, 1996.

118–127, 2003) has drawn our attention not only to a powerful refutation of neo-Darwinism, but to a potential tool for testing the biblical view of the fossil record. The lack of mutations in dental fossils argues against the mutational view of evolution, and it also reveals the relatively slight mutation load on the animals that died in Noah's Flood. It should theoretically be possible to find evidence of genetic 'perfection' very broadly across the whole fossil record. Symmetry, for example, is commonly used as a sign of genetic integrity, so by examining fossils for symmetry (and comparing them with extant organisms) we might be able to test this prediction of the biblical view.

Noah's Flood occurred only about 1,500 years after creation, and presumably a similar time since the Fall, when mutations would have begun to accumulate. The law against incest (which we can infer was meant to protect humans from genetic defects) was not given until about 1,000 years later. We might reasonably infer that at the time of the Flood, genetic perfection was still a real factor in the lives of many creatures.

Today, about 6,000 years after the Fall, we have suffered from mutations for about four times as long as the organisms that died in the Flood. Under the biblical model, therefore, mutation load today should be very much greater than that found in fossilized organisms. But under the neo-Darwinist model, mutations have been a constant factor for millions of years throughout the whole fossil record, so we would not expect to find less mutations in fossils than we see among extant organisms today.

Alex Williams
Beeliar, WA
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Don Moeller replies:

The author of the letter is correct. Examination of animal and human dentitions found in the fossil record should exhibit the effects of an increasing mutational load through time. Dental cascade developmental abnormalities should also demonstrate specific effects of loss of information mutations which occurred after the Fall. Abnormalities which are unaffected by diet, such as eruption sequence, positional eruption variation, and dental pathology from unerupted teeth, are all good indicators of mutational loads. Almost all animals with teeth have some modifications of these subsystems which then may be mapped as they occur in the fossil record.

Don Moeller
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Erratum TJ 16(3)

The Tower of Babel Account Affirmed by Linguistics: on p. 28, at the bottom of the second column under American families, the sentence, 'The Miao-Yao is found in northern Canada from the eastern part of Alaska to Greenland', should be changed to 'The Miao-Yao (Hmong-Mein) are found in Southern China, mainly Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces (as well as Guangdong) and into Southeast Asia.'

Erratum TJ 17(2)

Proconsul africanus: an examination of its anatomy and evidence for its extinction in a post-Flood catastrophe: in Figure 2 on p. 13, the image shown is the maxilla and not the mandible.

Genetic perfection in the fossil record

Don Moeller's article 'Dental fossils and the fossil record' (*TJ* 17(2):

