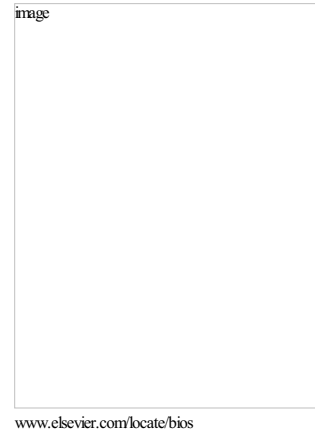


PURPOSE: A SLOW DAWNING FOR US ALL?

Peter D. Cooper



PII: S1550-8307(17)30234-3
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.explore.2017.07.008>
Reference: JSCH2257

To appear in: *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*

Cite this article as: Peter D. Cooper, PURPOSE: A SLOW DAWNING FOR US ALL?, *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*, doi:10.1016/j.explore.2017.07.008

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Purpose: A Slow Dawning For Us All?

Peter D. Cooper¹, DSc, PhD, BSc, MASM

¹Corresponding author. Retirement address: 72, Florence Taylor Street, Greenway,
Australian Capital Territory, Australia, 2900. Email: doddcoop@ozemail.co.au
Phone: +61-2-62319926

Campus Visitor, Australian National University, Australian Capital Territory,
Australia, 2601.

Purpose: A Slow Dawning For Us All?

"I often think it comical (fah-la-la-lah...) how Nature always doth contrive (fah-la-la-lah)

*That every boy and every gal that's born into this world alive
Is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative (fah-la-la-lah)...*

Sgt Willis, Iolanthe, Gilbert and Sullivan

You will have noticed how some people usually expect good outcomes and others for whom the 'glass is half empty'; quite draining companions. In science seminars, some are usually interested in new ideas and constructively critical while others remain unimpressed. Some scientific colleagues and students assume *a priori* that Nature is randomly pointless and others that it is purposeful. A Professorial science friend and colleague, then unknowingly near the end of his life, once remarked to me "What's the point of it all?"

My worldview was early fixed with the astounding picture of the Periodic Table, the exquisite order making chemistry so much easier to grasp. Order to me spelt Purpose but it has taken decades more to figure out why it is actually more general. I once watched a squadron of lightning-fast swallows hunting swarms of minute flying things over the lakeside. Their bodies were so clearly fit for purpose, as were their feast-victims so fortuitously prolific. Such Darwinian adaptation exists all around.

So Purpose does exist. But Purpose demands some job not yet complete. Swallows do their bit for the food chain while humans are parasitic and could destroy it. Is there a deeper point to it all, for humans? Does it matter anyway?

As human populations reach critical mass and we see their problems made worse worldwide by climate change, personal and corporate greed, gross inequality and a litany of other divisive issues, it is impossible to deny that this century will be critical for all life forms on Earth. If humanity could see even a hope of a Higher Purpose and be incentivised to follow it, then yes it matters. No small task.

To be sure there is a large body of opinion in science that could be familiarly paraphrased as the Dawkins/Hawking Axis of Nihil. This opinion offers, literally, nothing, especially for Purpose. Are there cogent scientific reasons to dispute Nihilism?

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8588417>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8588417>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)