TO MAKE A SNOWFLAKE†

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In the infinity of space, whirls an infinity of stars, galaxies and universes of a magnitude that dwarfs our wildest dreams. What an infinite interaction of chemical and physical energies God initiated in those celestial nuclear reactions!

Then one day, God tired of the titanic, and sought a design that would bring His cosmos to a perfect climax.

So He made a snowflake.

By bringing together all those great forces that had formed the worlds themselves, He forged this delicate mini-meteor. With the flaming power of the sun, He drew from the ocean a few drops of water and dissected them into a pure breath of vapor. Then with a mighty gust of wind He blew them high above the world into the clear non-resistant environment of the upper atmosphere. There in that pristine heaven, where no earthly influence could hinder their outward growth, He began to reassemble those misty molecules, atom by atom; as Isaiah would describe it, "line upon line, line upon line, here a little, and there a little."

But line by line seemed a bit monotonous. Then came a magnificent thought—why make them all the same? Why not program the design computer for a chain reaction and let each line punch the card for the next, and adjust the output for infinity?

Yet there should be some overall trademark which would identify their Creator. It was clearly evident that God should be presented in His triune nature; so a perfect triangle was programmed. Then God in His eternal foreknowledge saw the day when He would assume the human trinity of man's body, soul and spirit. Why not combine the two triads into a perfect six-pointed star?

What a triumphal triunity to reflect Christ as the morning Star of hope!

Does that sound a bit idealistic? Secular philosophy says all natural phenomena result from the casual cast of some capricious crap game. And here is a chance to exploit that conjecture of chance. It is reported that no two snowflakes are exactly alike; of course no one has ever verified that by examining all of them. Certainly the ones shown on the front cover are all different. But their manifold variety points to infinity. Would not that diversity seem to suggest the randomness upon which all the facets of nature could be built?

Yet these spontaneous anomalies of snow exhibit no tendency to develop into anything but a snowflake. With such infinite variation, surely they should at least have developed a wheel, as Henry David Thoreau described them so expressively, "There they lie, like the wreck of chariot wheels after a battle in the skies . . . these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven's floor." If unlimited randomness be the script for the cosmos, here should be enough deviation to prove both polemic and platitude.

But we must not neglect the evidence of design and purpose. Could it be mere chance that the heart of each snowflake is the very essence of geometry? Those sets of sixes and their precise sixty degrees reveal not only the holy Star of David, but witness the centrality of plan and pattern. Even Thoreau was compelled to look beyond the caprice of nature when he wrote in his journal, "Nature is full of genius, full of divinity. Nothing is cheap and coarse, neither dewdrop nor snowflake. A divinity must have stirred within them before the crystals did thus shoot and set."

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†An account, similar to this, is given on pages 3-5 of Mr. Keithley's book, *Portraits on Nature's Palette*, available from the author at the address given above. The book was reviewed on page 76 of the *Quarterly* for June 1977.

MARINE LIFE AND THE FLOOD

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Stenohaline plants and animals could not have survived a global homogeneous flood. Since salt water is more dense than fresh water, a situation in which dense salt water is overlaid by less dense fresh water is stable. Stenohaline organisms might have survived the flood by inhabiting extensive pockets of salt water lying underneath the predominantly fresh-water deluge. Brine pockets have been described in recent literature. A simple experimental model showed the plausibility of a heterogeneous flood.

How Salinity Affects Marine Creatures

Terrestrial animals, including man, survived the catastrophic deluge described in Genesis by God's provision of the Ark. The Biblical account is silent regarding survival of fresh water and marine organisms. It is true that many kinds of organisms can survive marked changes in salinity. Howe[1] provided evidence that at least some plant seeds can survive long period of soaking in varying concentrations of salt water. Salmon, striped bass and several other fish hatch in fresh water,

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