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## PREFACE

Animals have very efficient communication systems, which they use to converse with one another. Nevertheless, they are not able to speak to us in human language. So we have projected ourselves into them, and we have made ourselves their “mouth-pieces.” That’s the reason for the title of the book: *If Animals Could Talk*. If animals could tell us about themselves, using our scientific knowledge, if they could tell us about the way they live, the special way they are made and many details about their individual design — what they would say would be unique praise **to the Creator**. We have therefore chosen certain animals and **would like** to speak for them in order to show something of the great Creator himself: the rich treasure of His ideas, His joy in creating, His love for beauty in form and color, His painstaking care and finally, His love for humankind and His desire to save us through Jesus Christ.

The book is written in a way that would present each individual animal of a particular species as an imaginary dialogue partner for the reader. Each animal deals with questions that might arise, and answers them in this hypothetical conversation. Through this method, the material is presented in a narrative form and, we hope, in a lively and entertaining way. We have not tried to skip difficult topics, but have tried to deal with them in the same narrative way, and make them accessible. We have often taken examples from everyday experience to clarify detail, or to

show it in its proper context. We think that this method makes statistical information more comprehensive.

*Literary Genre:* This book is neither a dry book of facts, nor a scientific treatment, but rather an engaging “dialogue” between certain creatures and us humans. While at a superficial glance, these stories might appear to be fairy tales or fables, such an evaluation would be essentially false. Rather, we are dealing with a special literary genre which deals responsibly with factual matter, but as a stylistic tool, has animals speak for themselves, and thus describe the works of God and praise their Creator.

But ask now the beasts,  
and they shall teach thee;  
and the fowls of the air,  
and they shall tell thee:  
Or speak to the earth,  
and it shall teach thee:  
and the fishes of the sea  
shall declare unto thee.  
Who knoweth not in all these  
that the hand of the LORD  
hath wrought this?  
In whose hand  
is the soul of every living thing,  
and the breath of all mankind  
(Job 12:7–10; KJV).

Through this book we are also making a stand for the protection of the animal kingdom. Mankind has received a vocation from God:

. . . have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (Gen. 1:28).

We have therefore been appointed as administrators over the animals. We will eventually be called on by Him to give an account of ourselves in this capacity. For this reason, cruelty to animals and the extermination of complete animal groups, which is often purely based on profit grounds (e.g., whales), can only be condemned.

*Contents:* Out of the great diversity of the animal kingdom, with more than a million different species, we have selected only a very small sample. Despite this limitation, they are all real animals, on the earth, in the earth, in the water, or in the air, that talk to us. The one exception to this is where one tiny part of the human anatomy talks to us about God's construction principles. The facts presented have been scientifically confirmed, even if they are presented in a non-scientific form, due to the narrative style we have chosen. In order not to disturb the flow of reading by constantly referring to source literature, we have generally omitted footnotes.

*Circle of Readers:* We have not been writing for a specific type of reader, in terms of age, education, or profession. Rather, we want to be accessible to everybody — young and old, laymen as well as experts. Furthermore, the conversations will be valuable, whether the reader believes in God or doubts His existence. Actually, we have been writing more for the "seeker" than for anybody else. We have smoothed the way for such a person, without biblical preparation or knowledge, so that he or she can come to know the Creator personally.

*Acknowledgments:* We are grateful to Allan Collister and Mark Garvey who were able to devote their valuable time to the translation of this book. A special note of appreciation is due to Sarah J. Curtius, Colette Drescher, and Thomas Ruchatz who edited the translation.

— Werner Gitt and Karl-Heinz Vanheiden

## SPEAKING OF BIRDBRAIN!

### *The Field Sparrow*



**I**t is true that there are quite a lot of us. Our song is loud, and not very appealing. People think we eat their crops. Even our humble appearance doesn't earn us any admirers. But still, if you take the trouble to pay attention to a cheeky sparrow, you'll

find it worthwhile. I promise you that.

You think you won't find anything special about me, do you? Well, there are just as many of us as there are of you. You think that just because there are lots of something, that makes it irrelevant? Then you would have to be pretty unimportant yourself! Oh, excuse me, I was being really impertinent.

Actually, I am a well-mannered field sparrow. I wouldn't want you to confuse me with my cousin, the fat and cheeky house sparrow. You can recognize me by my grey breast and the black patch on my wing, so you can easily tell us apart. As my name suggests, I tend to keep away from your houses.

## **BORN TO FLY**

My Creator designed me first and foremost as a flier. For that reason, every last part of my body is designed for flight. I can't figure out how some people have the nerve to say that we descended from reptiles. Just imagine! Dinosaurs are supposed to be our closest relatives! Nobody can make me believe that the first sparrow lived more than 50 million years ago. It seems to me that the fairy-tale character of this whole theory is camouflaged by the huge number of years, but let's leave that theory aside and concentrate on the facts. Then you can judge for yourself.

My body is made of the lightest material imaginable. Almost all my bones are hollow. This means they can take to the air. They are very light, but remain stable. A distant relative of mine, the albatross, has bones that have a combined weight of only 4.2 to 5.3 ounces (120 to 150 gm), even though he is 39 inches (1 m) long, and has a wingspan of almost 10 feet (3 m). The weight of his feathers exceeds the weight of his bones!

If our bones were full of marrow, like those of the reptiles, we could never fly. Besides that, our pelvis is attached to our spine, which is not the case with reptiles. That's the only way that our skeleton has the strength and elasticity that is essential for flying.

## **A REMARKABLE HOLE**

The small hole in the linkage of my upper arm bone seems pretty remarkable to me. This is not a defect. The ligament which connects the breast muscle with the upper side of the shoulder joint goes through this hole. Without this, I wouldn't

be able to lift my wing, let alone fly. If I descended from reptiles, then I would have to ask myself, who drilled that hole in the glenoid cavity? Who threaded the ligament through the hole? You will look long and hard before you find a hole like that in a crocodile or in a dinosaur.

### **BE STRONG, MY HEART!**

Squawk! Help, a sparrow hawk! Squawk! Where can I hide? Help! Oh, I got away again! That was a close one! Now he's gone again. Did you know, the sparrow hawk is our worst enemy? With his long claws he can even grab us out of the thickest bush, if we don't watch out. We've got a whole crowd of enemies: crows, magpies, cats, and humans. They don't even leave us alone at night. The owls grab us from the branches where we sleep. I remember one time when a horrible screech owl broke into our nest in the middle of the night, tore my husband out and mercilessly ripped him apart from head to toe. It was terrible!

Nevertheless, I know that my Creator cares for me. In the Bible it says that God doesn't forget a single sparrow. It must be even better for you, as you're much more valuable to Him than I am. He has even numbered the hairs on your head. Yes, God obviously cares for you humans in a special way.

You know, my Creator gave me an exceptionally strong heart. It is one of the most efficient hearts there are. At the moment, while talking to you, it's beating more than seven times a second, or 460 times a minute. Just now, when I was fleeing from the sparrow hawk, my pulse went up to 760! It has to beat that fast to enable me to fly.

### **A SUPER TOOL**

Yes, look at me more closely. Do you see my beak? Not very remarkable from the outside, right? But it is a miraculous tool which my Creator gave me: super-light, and yet capable of the hardest tasks. Somebody figured out that the tearing length of

# A devastating answer to Darwinian evolution!

*"If animals could tell us about themselves, using our scientific knowledge, if they could tell us about the way they live, the special way they are made and many details about their individual design — what they would say would be unique praise to the Creator."*

- Did you know that while in flight, the sparrow's heart can beat up to 760 times per minute?
- Or that a baby blue whale grows at a rate of 7.28 pounds an hour while it's nursing, a grand total of 17 tons by the end of the nursing stage?
- How about that glow worms have a light output efficiency of 100%, as compared to only 4% for our incandescent bulbs?

**D**r. Werner Gitt, one of the foremost creationist speakers in the world, uses his scientific expertise in this book to show the unique design features of some of God's most captivating creations. All people, young and old, layperson or expert, will be able to understand and enjoy this straightforward book. Told from the perspective of the animals being described, *If Animals Could Talk* clearly shows the impossibility of life without design. Dr. Gitt uses simple language to provoke a sense of wonder and awe at the marvelous design of the Creator.

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