

January 24, 2007

Moti Ben-Ari, Chapter 6 *Just a Theory*

Pg 111b- "Religion product of evolution"

Pg 110- "Different Communities Focus on Different Theories"

Pg 100d- "Great Theories Require Great Evidence"

Pg 101a- "Acceptance of thesis based on tradition of research"

Pg 100d- "Einstein's theory is falsified"

- tradition of research must go through right channels of inquiry and publication
- Do Beliefs of scientists' constitute a theory?
 - a belief is acceptable if it is a proven theory
 - better if specified as a "understanding coming from facts" rather than a belief

Pg 110- "Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof"

- used to link to Wagner's dilemma in binder reading

Hal Helman, *Great Feuds in Science, Ch8*

Pg 9e (1st column)

Pg 148

Pg 146d

Pg 145c

Pg 149d

Pg 145: Wagner's belief is debased because of society

- What could he have done?
 - possible failure in procedure
 - too sure of idea without support
 - scientists should be skeptical based on his lack of data
 - even though he was right, it was luck and right for the wrong reasons

Pg 149 "Wagner's theory of continental drift fills gaps in current theory"

- were other theories more beneficial because of evidence even though they were wrong?
 - (Again) scientists should have been skeptical based on lack of his evidence
- Wagner's Role as an Outsider
 - Scientists were also reluctant to accept his theory based on his specialization elsewhere
 - Outsiders would be better used as a support of a theory, rather than the origin
 - Wagner should have enlisted help, or gotten the support of other scientists in the geographical or geological field. Or at least had a second opinion before publication