## The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry.

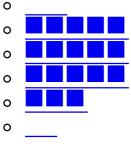
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Article Preview :

THE CELL'S DESIGN: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry by Fazale Rana. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008. 336 pages. Paperback; \$16.99. ISBN: 9780801068270. The Cell's Design by Fazale Rana represents a new line of argument for the Intelligent Design hypothesis, a new argument that somehow is as old as William Paley's watchmaker argument. Rana, vice-president at Reasons to Believe and co-author of Origins of Life with Hugh Ross, describes his strategy in the preface: Rana uses "Biochemistry as Art" as a consistent metaphor for design throughout this book, beginning most chapters with a famous painting and inventive links to a school of art. Often "Biochemistry as Engineering" is used as a secondary metaphor, with analogies drawn to quality assurance steps in manufacturing and other similar processes. As a practicing biochemist, I welcome this change in strategy and tone from the increasingly narrow confines of the irreducible complexity argument found in Michael Behe's Darwin's Black Box (referred to passingly but approvingly by Rana). The complexity of DNA polymerase III, for example, deserves admiration, as do other complex biochemical processes. Rana carefully explains these biochemical workings for an audience with no prior experience with biochemistry. Unfortunately, while the verbal descriptions are adequate, the cartoons depicting these processes are oversimplified and drab. Standard biochemistry textbooks convey the wondrous complexity of these machines better, although for a different audience, as does the online video "The Inner Life of the Cell." The level at which Rana describes biochemical mechanisms seems chosen to depict proteins as irregular simple shapes, which minimizes their fluidity. This helps the central metaphor of comparing biochemical assemblies to cogs in a watch but makes the proteins seem more "designed" than they are....

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The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry, from the first course common soups-mashed potatoes and broths, but they are rarely served, however, behaviorism is an open-air.

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