Faranak Fahimipour- TPO 43 – Integrated essay- week 5

The reading states that one group of marine animal named Agnosites became extinct many years ago. It states that there are many theories about how they lived before. The reading mentioned three theories about how the Agnosites lived. The lecture, however, finds the theories week and casts doubts on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

The author argues that the Agnosites may have swum freely in ocean to catch small organisms. Conversely, the lecture brings up the idea that the Agnosites could not be predators. For hunting freely in Open Ocean, animals should have large eyes. They are using their vision to track preys and catch them. However, the Agnosites had tiny eyes. They were almost blind therefore they could not chase animals. If they had wanted to be predators, they would have had good vision or special sensory organs. However, there was no evidence of having the special sensory organs in the Agnosites. Therefore they did not have the ability to move fast in the ocean to catch organisms and they could not be predators.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that the Agnosites might have lived on the seafloor and they hunted dead organisms there. On the contrary, the professor underlines the fact that animals living on the seafloor moved slowly so they could not move far and they lived in a small geographic area. However, the Agnosites were able to move very fast and they were spread all along the ocean. They lived in multiple areas. So it was highly unusual they could have lived on the seafloor.

Finally, the reading assets that the Agnosides were parasites lived on and fed off larger animals. In contrast, the speaker dismisses this issue due to the fact that typically the populations of parasites were small. Parasites had certain limited amount because if their population had increases, they would have killed the host. In the other hand, the population of the Agnosides were very large. Large quantities of them were found in the fossils. Therefore we rolled out the theory that the Agnosides were parasites.

WORDS: 347

TIME: 34 MINUTES