

Geneticist Describes the "Symphony of Life"

The late Jérôme LeJeune, M.D., Ph.D., one of the world's foremost authorities in the field of genetics, taught us much about the intricacies of the beginning of human life.

Dr. LeJeune called that very first cell, the fertilized egg, "the most specialized cell under the sun." He explained that the fertilized egg contains more information about the new individual than can be stored in five sets (not volumes) of the Encyclopedia Britannica (if enlarged to normal print). No other cell will ever again have the same instructions as those in the life of the individual being created.

In the words of Dr. LeJeune, "Each of us has a very precise starting point which is the time at which the whole necessary and sufficient genetic information is gathered inside one cell, the fertilized egg, and this is the moment of fertilization. There is not the slightest doubt about that, and we know that this information is written on a kind of ribbon which we call the DNA."

"At no time," Dr. LeJeune stated, "is the human being a blob of protoplasm. As far as your nature is concerned, I see no difference between the early person that you were at conception and the late person which you are now. You were, and are, a human being."

The Science of Fetology has advanced to the point that it can now be determined within three to seven days after fertilization if the new human being is a boy or a girl.

When Dr. LeJeune testified in a Tennessee Court in 1989 as to the humanity of seven frozen embryos

he held the court spellbound with the following visual/audio reference to man's "symphony of life." He explained that if you were to buy a CD on which a Mozart symphony had been recorded and insert it in a player, what is being reproduced is the movement of the air that transmits to you the genius of Mozart. Accordingly, LeJeune further explained, "It's exactly the same way life is played. On the tiny mini-cassettes, which are our chromosomes, are written various parts of the opus which is for [a]

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—World renowned geneticist, the late Dr. Jérôme LeJeune



Dr. Jérôme LeJeune

human symphony, and as soon as all the information necessary [is brought together]...to spell the whole symphony this symphony plays itself; that is, a new man is beginning his career...as soon as he has been conceived, a man is a man."

Dr. Jérôme LeJeune, who resided in Paris, France, was a medical doctor, a Doctor of Science and a

professor of Fundamental Genetics for over 20 years. Dr. LeJeune discovered the genetic cause of Down Syndrome, receiving the Kennedy Prize for this discovery and, in addition, received the Memorial Allen Award Medal, the world's highest award for work in Genetics. Dr. LeJeune died on April 3, 1994.

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