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Dr. Krishna Bahadur  
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INDIA

Dear Dr. Bahadur:

Thank you for your recent letter. I was sorry to hear of your recent difficulties and hope very much that you will soon find yourself under more favorable conditions. I have no objection in principle to the idea of life based upon inorganic materials; the problem is to demonstrate an inorganic system capable of evolution by natural selection. I think the Darwinian point of view is absolutely essential and that any functional definition of life must involve this capability for natural selection. The making of objects which vaguely resemble cells and which very crudely divide does not seem to me to be adequate; what is required among other things is precision replication. You can find a somewhat more extensive discussion of my views on this subject in my article "Life" in the current edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

With all good wishes,

Cordially,

*Carl Sagan / CS*  
Carl Sagan

CS/sja