

Life

LIFE IS A WONDER of its own. It conceivably struck this planet some 3.7 billion years ago [citation], as the consequence of a phospholipidic layer-bound *quantum leap* in a soup of organic precursors [citation]. From that singular moment on, little has been spared in guise of amazement.

The first factual evidence of life on Earth appears inscribed in the fossil record some 3.4 billion years ago. It consists mainly

There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.

How ironic that one of the best models to understand this order of things is actually one of its most harrowing violations: cancer.

Cancer