

# The Centuries-Long Argument Over What Makes Living Things Tick: A History

For centuries, scientists have debated the nature of life. What is it that separates living things from non-living things? This is a question that has puzzled philosophers and scientists alike for centuries, and there is still no definitive answer.

In the early days of science, many people believed that life was simply a matter of complexity. The more complex an organism was, the more likely it was to be alive. This view was challenged by the German scientist Friedrich Wöhler, who in 1828 synthesized urea, a compound that was previously thought to be only produced by living organisms. This discovery showed that life was not simply a matter of complexity, and that there must be something else that separates living things from non-living things.

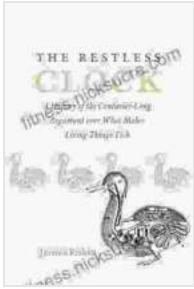
In the 19th century, scientists began to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the nature of life. They realized that living things are not simply complex machines, but rather complex systems that are able to maintain themselves in a state of equilibrium. This view was championed by the French scientist Claude Bernard, who argued that living things are characterized by their ability to resist entropy, or the tendency of all systems to break down over time.

## The Restless Clock: A History of the Centuries-Long Argument over What Makes Living Things Tick

by Jessica Riskin

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 544 pages
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In the 20th century, scientists began to develop a more molecular understanding of life. They discovered that all living things are made up of cells, and that cells are the basic unit of life. This discovery led to the development of the cell theory, which states that all living things are composed of cells, and that cells arise only from pre-existing cells.

The cell theory has been one of the most important discoveries in the history of science, and it has helped to revolutionize our understanding of life. However, it has also raised new questions about the nature of life. For example, what is it that makes a cell alive? Is it the presence of DNA? The ability to reproduce? The ability to metabolize?

These are questions that scientists are still debating today. However, the progress that has been made in the study of life over the past few centuries has given us a much better understanding of what it means to be alive.

The debate over what makes living things tick is a complex and fascinating one. It is a debate that has been going on for centuries, and it is a debate that will likely continue for centuries to come. However, the progress that has been made in the study of life over the past few centuries has given us a much better understanding of what it means to be alive.

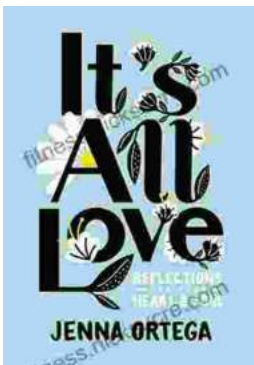


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