

A Gift from God

Oil was formed millions of years ago when the dead bodies of small sea creatures rained down on coastal seabeds in such vast numbers that they were covered over before they could decay.

Over time, the weight above them subjected them to high pressures and temperatures and made them into oil. Conditions had to be perfect for this to happen. Some might call it a miracle.

A fossil is formed when a body is buried and slowly decays leaving behind a cavity, which is filled with sediment carried by flows of water. Over time, the cavity becomes a rock. Rocks do not burn. There is no such thing as a fossil fuel.

Oil is not a rock. It is not a fossil fuel. It is the remains of life that existed millions of years ago. It is not dirty. In many respects, it is a gift from God. The same can be said of natural gas and coal.

Oil is too precious to burn. As an energy source, renewables and nuclear could easily replace it. Even if it is burned, ways can be developed to make emissions a lot lower than they are now.

Currently, about 15% of the oil produced is used to make an enormous number of everyday products that would be hard to replace. Plastics is just one example.

Instead of demonizing oil, we should be looking for ways to use it to make life better on Earth, and that includes battling major problems such as climate change.

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