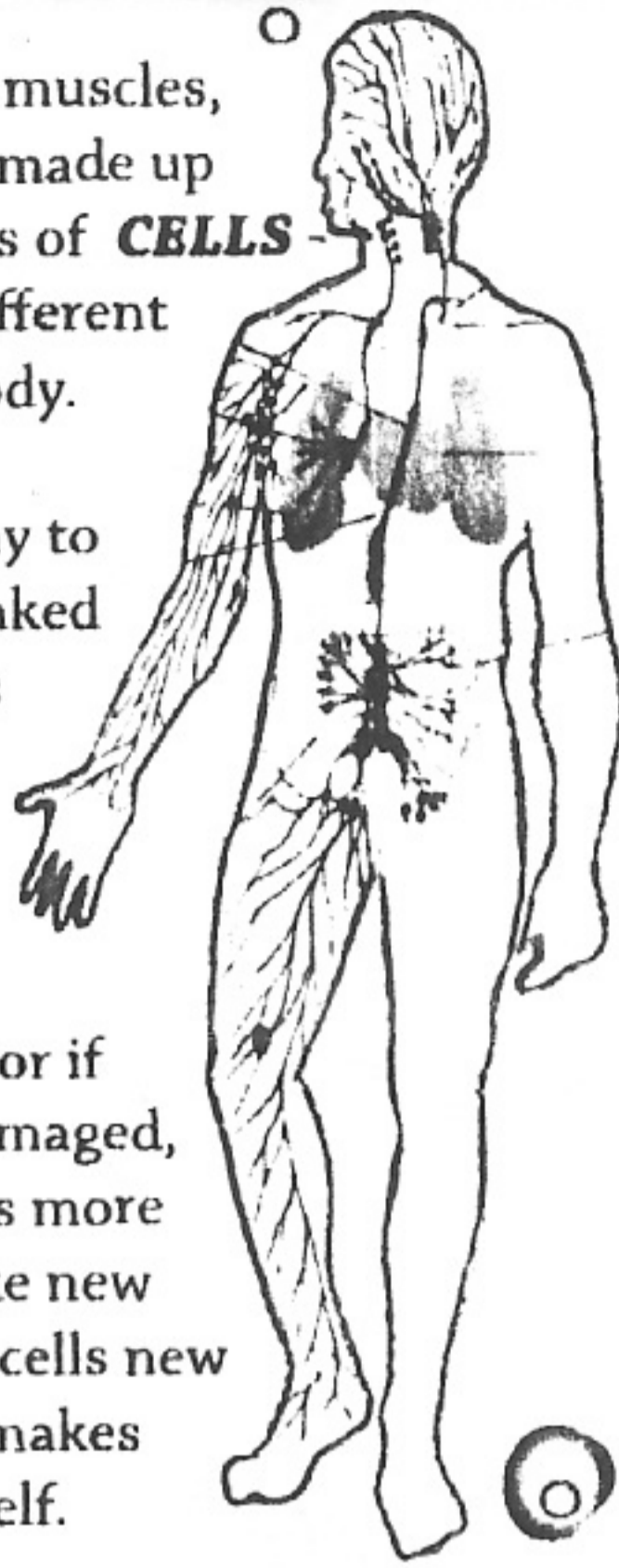


Your brain, your muscles, your skin are all made up of different kinds of **CELLS** - with over 200 different kinds in your body.

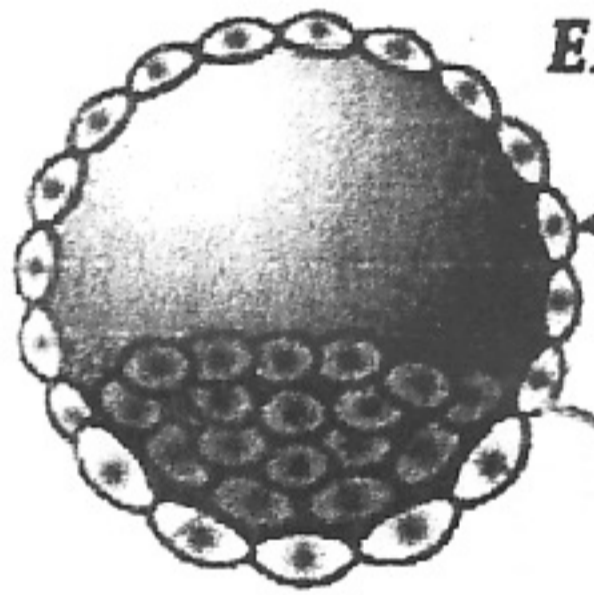


Although too tiny to see with your naked eye, your body is made up of **TRILLIONS** of them.

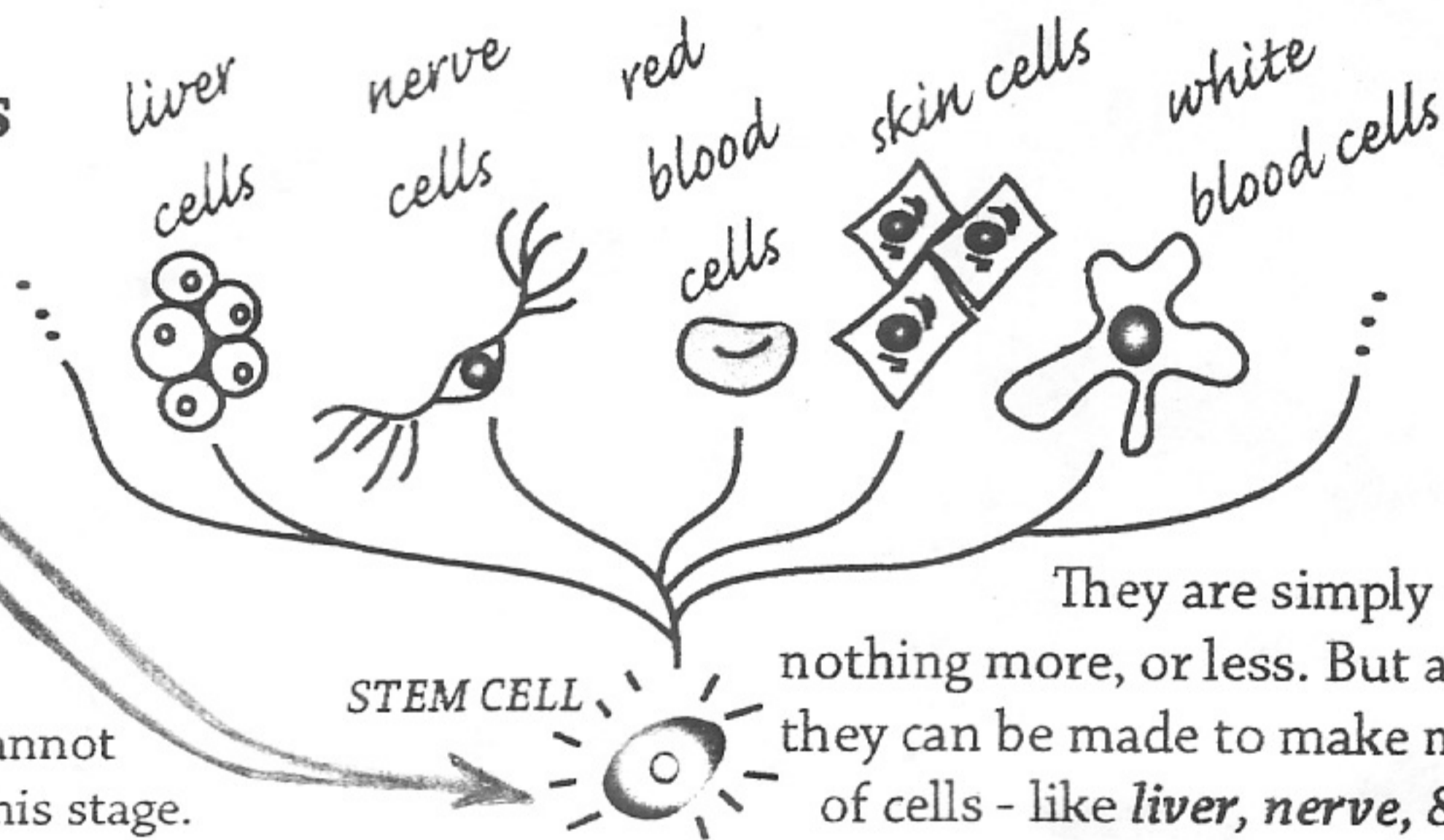
When you grow or if your cells get damaged, your body makes more - heart cells make new heart cells, skin cells new skin cells, each makes only more of itself.

But **STEM CELLS** are special - a stem cell can become almost any kind of cell, and so are very important in medicine and in understanding our own biology.

Stem cells are common in **EMBRYOS**



which are just 100 or so cells large. Usually created 1st from egg & sperm in a lab, the embryo cannot develop much further than this stage.



They are simply cells, nothing more, or less. But as *stem cells* they can be made to make many kinds of cells - like *liver, nerve, & skin...*

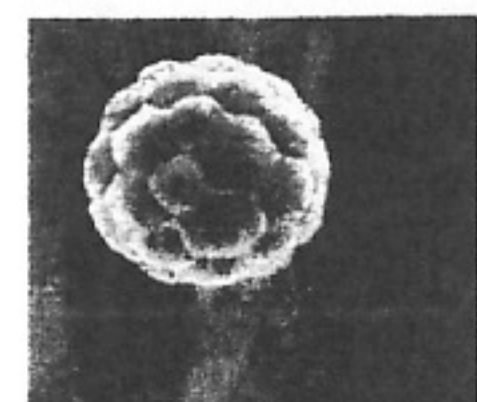
Because of this ability, stem cells are important in the study of cancer and other diseases,

&

may also provide new ways to treat diseases -like Parkinson's that were not as treatable before.

-grow-divide-become-

Although the research is just beginning and faces many obstacles (including political ones!), our



understanding of them is growing - cell by tiny cell

The Small Science Collective
<http://smallsciencezines.blogspot.com>