

'Creation v. Evolution' - progressing beyond that futile squabble

Based on information presented in *Notes from the Threshold* and *Threshold Science*,
both free to download from www.pathwayinitiatives.co.uk

Darwin OK, Darwinists wrong

'I am inclined to view the world as if it were the result of designed laws, but with the details left to chance.' (Charles Darwin)

Big questions and a big distraction

The subject of *evolution* raises some of the deepest questions we can ask about our human existence: *Who are we? How did we come to be here? and How did we come to be the way we are now?*

However, addressing these questions in a clear-minded way is made all the more difficult by a long-running divisive conflict. In simple terms, it's the dispute between certain religious fundamentalists known as *creationists* who take the biblical 'Seven Days' story literally, and those secular materialists, known as *evolutionists*, who deny any kind of directed or purposeful creative processes driving Nature.

The materialists fear a return to worldwide domination by bigoted religious organisations, given the Church's history of dogmatic and cruel suppression of freethinking. The creationists, meanwhile, fear a sterile, 'value-free', irresponsible, secular world culture, which denies any meaning, design or overall pattern behind Nature. This would reduce it to a series of supposedly 'random' events and physical mechanisms, while proposing that life itself somehow arose spontaneously from nonliving matter.

The dispute seems to have always been more about who's view prevails than about genuine scientific or spiritual quests for a better understanding of Nature. And one major effect has been to distract minds from honest enquiry. An effective way, however, to resolve such futile, immature conflicts is to transcend them. And in this case a more mature, all-inclusive approach is possible – that is, one which reaches way beyond such limited alternatives, and encompasses both 'sides', each of which results from a lack of certain vital knowledge.

My journey from home to the supermarket could be analysed simply as a sequence of steps which add up to the particular route I took, with the result that I somehow happened to arrive at that place. But this materialistic-mechanistic view completely excludes one crucial factor: I intentionally made that journey, as part of a greater pattern in this lifetime, a fact which brings some coherence to the whole process.

On the other hand it seems unbelievable that the wondrous garden that is this planet was intentionally delivered, complete and up-and-running, in six days flat... somewhat like a TV gardening makeover.

Evolving creation and creative evolving

The transcendent view enables one to read the Old Testament of the Bible as an encoded account of real processes unfolding over long periods of time. Which leads to an understanding that we individual human beings are all parts of, and inescapably involved in an *evolving creative* AND a *creatively evolving* process. Crucial to this is appreciating how

the principle of '*polarity within wholeness*' plays out in human affairs.

Inclusive polarity or exclusive binary

The principle of *polarity*, universal throughout this one coherent conscious cosmos, contrasts with the prevailing *binary* mentality of current Western science, which ignores the universal qualities shared in common by all the apparently separated entities in the cosmos. Thus *biology* (*bios = life*) has been rendered lifeless, fragmented and sterile, by scientists obsessively focused on component parts, mechanisms and classifying.

As a consequence, in Western evolutionary science, there have evolved two major misconceptions. First, the false conclusion has been reached that humankind is the end product of a selective breeding process – somewhat like, but on a grander scale than the highly bred homing pigeons Charles Darwin himself studied. And, second, going further back, the idea that life on Earth arose 'spontaneously' from non-living matter, that is, from a mysterious primordial soup of chemicals. However, attempts to come up with a recipe for this in the laboratory, still remain purely speculative.

On the origins of humankind...

Darwin simply said that '*... Light will be thrown on the origin of man and his history...*' He said nothing about humans being direct, bloodline descendants of apes, although he foresaw this as one controversial conclusion some would draw. He described the actual origin of species as 'the mystery of mysteries', and heated arguments about this have been going on ever since then.

Missing links and inconclusive fossil records

Yet Western science continues to proclaim that there is an unbroken chain of heredity connecting humankind with apes of an earlier time – which would make them our direct, bloodline ancestors. And this despite the fact that there have been unanswered questions all along about the so-called 'missing link' between apes and humans – which would have to consist of some conclusive fossil evidence of transitional ape-to-human forms. However, none has yet been found.

Also, the orthodox interpretation has been further undermined by a growing body of scientific evidence indicating the presence of human life on Earth long before this was supposedly possible, according to the orthodox view. So, although through time the process has left traces which suggest a pattern, ie a sequence of fossilised forms, *this physical evidence alone cannot explain the unfolding of the more subtle process, the continuing evolving of human consciousness.*

The neo-Darwinists cite as their evidence a sequence of increasingly large primate skulls collected and collated by many researchers over many years, from which they deduce that increasing brain size is significant in the overall process. So far, so good. But then they jump, with naïve, speculative optimism, to a flawed conclusion: that an apparent series of fossilised ape forms 'proves' – in a simplistic linear way – that humans must be direct bloodline descendants of apes, and so, humans and apes must share one common, recognisable ape ancestor. Drawing that false conclusion is a critical error Darwin himself never made.

Human evolution

Charles Darwin was an ingenious, careful and genuine seeker into the workings of Nature, but also very much a man of his time. As an Englishman in the nineteenth century, he was inevitably influenced by the ethos of the all conquering British Empire, powered as it was by the technological successes of the British-led Industrial Revolution. This would seem to explain his quest to come up with a *mechanism*, a machine-like account of how some species seem to victoriously survive while others fail and die out.

His heightened awareness of rivalry, competition and conflict is hardly surprising – given the then prevailing political context of dominance through divide-and-rule, backed up with the threat of violent force... and all of that within an economic context of fiercely competitive capitalism. Hence his theory of species 'adapting' to their environment through so-called 'natural selection', resulting in the 'survival of the fittest'.

'Natural selection'

He did say that he used the expression *natural selection* only as a metaphor – which leaves unexplained: (a) who or what is actually doing the 'natural' selecting, and (b) the *motive* behind that selecting which expresses an unaccounted for 'will to survive'. He also described a process of apparently '*random*' mutations which appear in each new organism.

Taken as a superficial description of the physical evidence, all this does seem, more or less, to fit the observable patterns as they unfold through time. However, that kind of nineteenth century 'winners and losers' thinking is severely limited in that it only addresses the physical dimension of life on earth. It lacks an all-inclusive overview and any sense of the other, more subtle, pre-physical and fundamental dimensions of our lives, such as consciousness.

A different way of thinking about evolution – from the *Threshold* perspective.

Just as the seed carries the blueprint for an 'ideal' tree form to be continuously regenerated, so humankind continues evolving through successive generations towards some ideal state presently beyond our capacity to imagine. With this broader perspective, we can see how the Darwinian view completely fails, regarding the bigger and more subtle questions of human evolution. For it doesn't provide a valid explanation of humanity's distinctive and more advanced modes of consciousness – that is, compared with creatures whose physical resemblance to humanity suggests that their consciousness would more closely resemble humanity's.

The crucial error of the Darwinians

The crucial error has been to notice a pattern of physical similarities and progressive changes, and then rush to interpret these as a particular kind of sequence, as a direct chain of causes and effects, linking the latest model to the long-passed original version. And it's here that we encounter that fundamental scientific misconception of the Darwinians – which is that that we human beings are direct bloodline descendants of apes, and so the common ancestor of humankind and today's apes must be an earlier ape.

Given the power of the *Threshold* perspective,, we can now see the apes as spin-offs that branched away from the main line or stem, which is the evolving of human consciousness. Such misconceptions arise from seeing only the physical level of life as real and significant, and thus ignoring even the possibility of a more all-inclusive scientific explanation.

The *Threshold* perspective

So, let's now take the *Threshold* line of thinking a step further. Assuming that the phenomenon of life itself functioned in some non-specific form before the cooling and solidifying into the physical-material universe, it follows that early humanity would have evolved first as a kind of pre-physical, aethereal proto-organism, which then evolved into our present dense physical form.

John Wilkes was an inventor, sculptor, scientist and author of *Flowforms*. He conducted some pioneering research into the vital properties of water and *flowforms*, and affirms this understanding. He said, in an interview with the author of this article: "*Things move from life processes towards mineral processes, so to speak. Everything was much more vital earlier on. The whole Earth, as we see through our geological research, the whole Earth was more plantlike. It was softer....*"

Which opens up a path of enquiry very different from both the Darwinists' and the creationists' approach, and doesn't involve 'missing links' or non-adapting, non-evolving species.

Dr Margaret Colquhoun is a biologist and ecologist, and co-author of the book *New Eyes for Plants*. She heads The Life Science Trust, a pioneering ecological educational project in Scotland, and said in a parallel interview: "*I've spent my whole life studying evolution, so I could talk about it for hours and hours. I was first a Darwinian evolutionary biologist; I respect Darwin and his place. But I think there's more to it than he said. It's only part of the story. I think life was first and the physical came afterwards, condensed out of life. And that is the opposite way round, I suppose. You can almost see that happening in embryology.*"

In the fossil record you can see earlier forms of animals, and then primates, and then the human beings are at the end physically. But if you think of the physical stuff in the fossil record, the ones that got left behind hardened, and we have stayed neotenuous, young. And we are like an earlier stage of development of apes. We haven't got old yet.

There are still other animals that are evolving as well. And plants. The less specialised ones are going on evolving. It seems to be important to understand that time is not linear. And if you can experience time moving in two directions, then evolution starts to be easier to understand. It's possible to think in other dimensions about it. The future is transforming the forms of the present. So it's organised from in front rather than from behind."

The polarity of *involution* and *evolution*

So, what is the fundamental *polarity* that drives this whole process? Here we find a rhythmic alternating between an outward and an inward movement, an expanding phase and a contracting phase of this pulsating cosmos: an **e**-*volutionary* phase and an **in**-*volutionary* phase.

The universal principle of **involution** is about how *consciousness* – spirit or soul, to some – involves itself in earthly matter through incarnating into physical bodies, seeding/creating living organisms. The **evolutionary** phase is the outward movement from that hidden, inner *potential* to manifesting in outer, earthly physicality – ie from seed to plant. The next *involutionary* phase is then the movement inwards – from plant to seed – to contain, conserve and prepare the potential for its next emerging.

Understanding this cyclic process resolves those riddles, such as 'Which came first: the chicken or the egg, the oak or the acorn?'. For such questions only arise from focusing on the separate, physical bits and pieces, while ignoring the continuity of the whole process within its greater living context.

'Random mutation' = continuous adapting

Random essentially means 'of a degree of complexity beyond the limited human ability to comprehend, calculate or predict'... and is thus taken to mean by 'chance'. *Mutation* means change, variation... in adapting to changing circumstances. So, a more accurate term for *random mutation* would perhaps be *exploratory mutation*. The *Threshold* perspective reveals that humankind adapts to changing circumstances in ways not fully accounted for by the current orthodox physical biology teaching on *random mutation, natural selection, genes, chromosomes, DNA chemistry* and so on.

In so doing, it marks a profound shift away from the old mechanistic-materialistic mindset, highlighted by the frank admission of Richard Lewontin, Harvard professor of biology. *'We take the side of science, in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated 'Just So' stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism...'*

And that's about as clear an admission as there could be of many of the shortcomings and prejudices in Western science. Lewontin then also says: *'It is not the truth that makes you free. It is your possession of the power to discover the truth. Our dilemma is that we do not know how to provide that power.'* The *Threshold* perspective does provide that power.

Darwin misrepresented

Viewed from the *Threshold* perspective, there is a fundamental flaw in what has become the post-Darwinian orthodoxy, but it's not to be found in what Charles Darwin himself wrote or said. It's a psychological flaw in the whole approach of Western materialistic 'hard' science, a false assumption which has permeated right through biology. Its effect has been to reject any notion that has any conceivable connection with divinity, and it reflects an entirely understandable, yet flawed, position.

Deeply embedded in the whole culture of Western materialistic science, it dates back to when the first pioneering scientists were cruelly persecuted by the then all-powerful, trans-national Church authorities. Thus the deep, long running split in Western culture between the two camps. It's a telling symptom and a stark reminder of how easily humans can be divided and ruled by those who know how to exploit the weakness and fear resulting from deep ignorance.

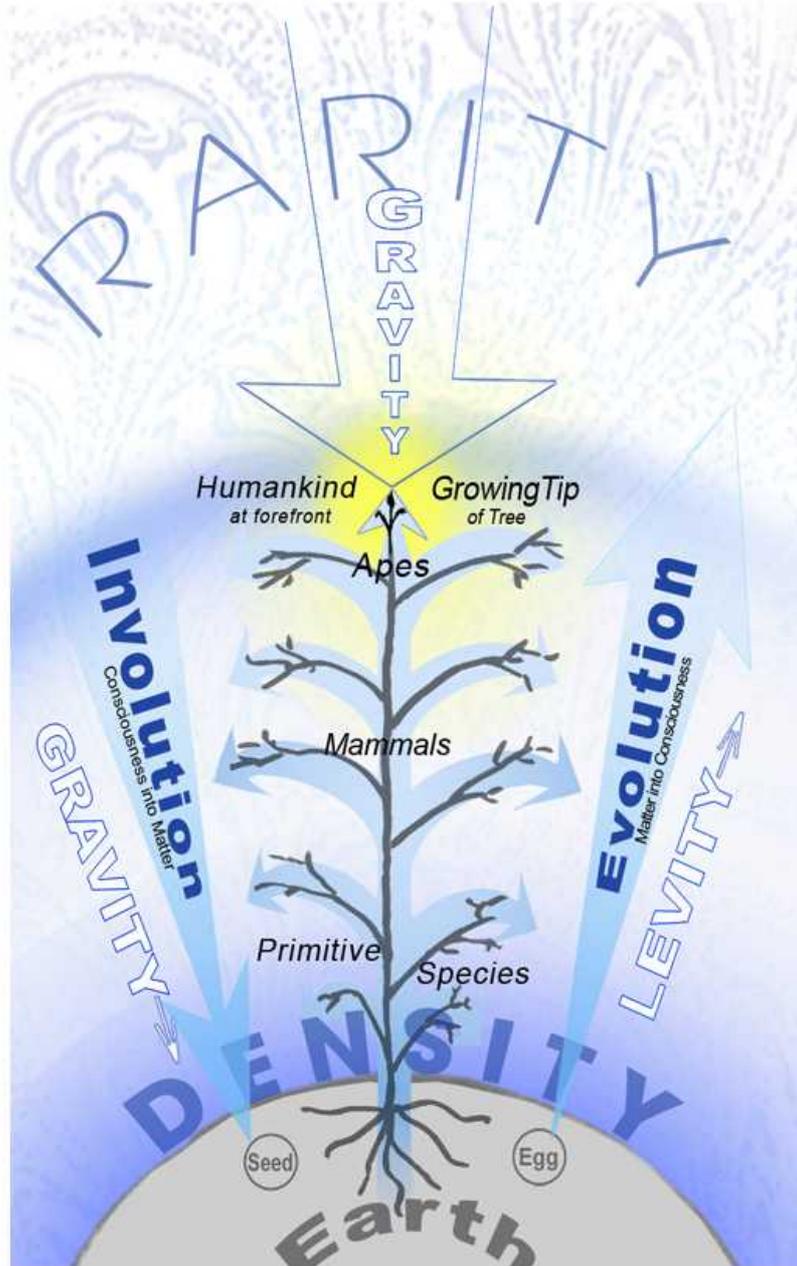
The Symbolic Tree of Involving/Evolving Consciousness

Darwin made a rough sketch of a tree to illustrate the broad principle of evolution. Offered here is a development of that idea to clarify the coherence behind the whole process, when seen in its cosmic context. If we also use the symbol of the tree to represent natural evolution in a much simplified way, humankind would be its *growing tip, its apex, the avant garde* of the main stem or trunk.

The (Symbolic) Tree of Involving/Evolving Consciousness

Involution: pre-physical consciousness 'descends' into physical forms from the periphery, under the force of *gravity*.

Evolution: physical forms 'ascend' towards redemption back into pure consciousness, raised by the force of *levity*.



The growing tip (Humankind) remains soft, young, evolving (neotenus)

The branches represent (earlier) outgrowths away from the vertical thrust of the main stem/trunk. These continue to evolve, but in limited, non-vertical ways, impeded by gravity and inertia, hardening and ageing - in contrast to the growing tip.

Darwin: "I am inclined to view the world as if it were the result of designed laws but with the details left to chance." ie He noted coherence behind the apparent 'randomness' of 'mutation'.

Then, given the rhythmic rotational relationship between Earth, sun and galaxy etc, all the other species would be branches, spin-offs from the main stem. As such, their potential for evolving 'higher', ie towards the sun, would be strictly limited. And so they more quickly become inertia bound, dried out, aged and hardened, unlike the 'younger' human forms at the growing tip who are physically softer and younger, ie *neotenous*.

The apes, being the most recent and 'highest', branchings away from the main human line, are, in that sense, our closest evolutionary relatives, but can only evolve in limited ways. They are, in that respect, 'failed' offshoots of the ongoing, 'vertical' evolutionary process. Meanwhile, calling humans 'naked apes' is to interpret the process the wrong way round.

But presently, career success in the discipline of biology is only attainable for those willing to promote the false doctrine that humans are little more than apes. This has the general effect of lowering human self esteem, and stirs up the old futile 'science versus religion' conflict – another polarizing distraction in the old 'divide and rule' strategy long used by ruling elites to maintain their status of superiority.

The purposeful, make-believe 'selfish gene'

The Selfish Gene was first published in the 1970s. It expressed a rational, secular, Western intellectual viewpoint, trying vainly to reconcile two opposed views of the world. One view is the random, brutal, 'red in tooth and claw' picture of Nature in the wild, in which all living forms are seen as mercilessly competing for survival – as rival species, as individual creatures and as imaginary so-called 'genes'. The other view is of various creatures displaying empathetic, altruistic and compassionate behaviour, with humans as the most refined exponents of this.

The fictional creation to resolve this dilemma was an abstract, imaginary micro-being called the *selfish gene*. Such entities, it was suggested, use real organisms as their 'survival vehicles', thereby driving on the process of evolution. This idea was intended to supplant the older Darwinian theory about species and the 'survival of the fittest'.

It's all about consciousness

The *Threshold* perspective, meanwhile, reveals that the essential, crucial theme in the whole evolutionary process, is the evolving of consciousness. Which is not a way of proposing any kind of 'religious' belief in an anthropomorphised superhuman being in the sky.

So, *universal consciousness*, a concept beyond which human minds presently seem unable to think, physically manifests in the most advantageous ways and forms for physically thriving on Earth. In this process the physical mechanisms of evolution that Darwin proposed appear, on the surface, to work out and result in an increasingly evolved, conscious human form.

The earliest evolving life forms would have had similar characteristics to their vaporous, fluid, ethereal environment, when Earth too would still have been solidifying. Which is why there are no fossil records of very early human forms, for these would not have been sufficiently solid to survive in any recognisable way. Thus emerges a more coherent picture of the common ancestry of humans and apes.

The tragedy of the neo-darwinists...

is that they came so close to a sound theory... but then self-sabotaged their own quest through the crucial misconception, described earlier. This highlights a fundamental flaw they share with other scientists.

It's inculcated at an early, impressionable age and, once assimilated, is thus rarely questioned. So they find themselves committed to a futile 'us versus them' battle – as supposedly 'rational' scientists against 'irrational' religion.

Darwin himself chose to suffer and live with honest doubt and uncertainty. But the neo-darwinists seem to crave certainties in the way that insecure children do. In summary, their crucial misconception has been an exclusive focussing on physical forms, while ignoring the prior, more fundamental, pre-physical reality, *consciousness*, also known to some as mind, awareness, soul, spirit and so on...

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