



Darwin and the Triumph of Matter over Spirit

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This year the world has celebrated the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth. The author of *On the Origin of Species* has undeniably been a precursor to major scientific discoveries in the biologic and genetic areas through his observations of animal species that have led to a better understanding of how some species are able to *adapt* to their environment through natural selection.

The theory of evolution, which hypothetizes that all species come from a common ancestor, is for the main part based on analogies and comparisons in between similar species. Common evidences for the theory of evolution are, for example, that animals from different species have similar organs, similar blood system, or bone shapes, and these facts should not be brushed off as they represent a material reality. However, it may not necessarily explain evolution. One could also consider these similarities as actual signs of the Unity in God. It all depends on whether one places himself on a materialistic or spiritual point of view.

Unfortunately, religious intolerance and a very literal approach to the content of the Genesis have caused many religious believers to feel they must choose between science and their book of faith. This has caused strong clashes and the two sides have camped on more and more extreme positions since the theory was first released. Mainly, the theory of evolution goes against the story of Adam and Eve and the creation of all animal species at once by a God, if taken literally from the Genesis. And one can see how totally opposite these explanations of the creation of the universe are. There does not seem to be any room for compromise.

Now, recognized metaphysicians like mathematician René Guénon and geologist Coomaraswamy have been strong opponents of the theory of evolution for the simple reason that this theory only applies to the world in its purely materialistic form, completely denying it a spiritual dimension, or even denying the living beings a free will in their decision to *adapt* to their environment. In some way, by comparison to *creationism*, which in itself is very limited to a literal approach of the Genesis and is therefore incomplete, the theory of evolution is simply a substitute to the literal Genesis, a compensation for the missing spiritual dimension. It still does not solve the main mysteries of the origins of the universe and of life. In some ways, it is similar to scientists

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coming up with the Big Bang theory to explain the creation of the universe, and yet still not being able to explain the origin of the Big Bang. It is interesting though that the Big Bang theory and the Genesis both agree that all started in one unique point or center containing everything, which is a mathematical anomaly that still cannot be conceived scientifically. Because science is based on observations, scientists “seek the solution to the cosmogonic problem on the sensory plane and one replaces true causes with imaginary ones, which in appearance at least, conform with the possibilities of the corporeal world”¹.

From the metaphysical point of view the true cause or origin of life does not reside in the material or physical world but is transcendental, and for metaphysicians, the Genesis is describing, before all, the major archetypes that allow us to grasp a divine origin. Adam and Eve are not real individuals but archetypes, and as such, they are beyond limitations and changes. They *exist* beyond evolution as the corporeal world is generated by the subtle one. Here lays the *mystery* of the spontaneous generation of the first pair.

One can only grasp these metaphysical concepts and the unity of archetypes through traditional symbolism. Unfortunately, our actual world is becoming more and more materialistic as we are continuing our descent in the *Kali-Yuga*, or *Age of Vice*, and for the rest of the people who somewhat believe in a God, they confuse archetypes with material beings, confirming the fact that we are now in times of total confusion as we are witnessing the triumph of matter over spirit.

¹ http://www.islam4all.com/new_page_164.htm