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# The Brotherhood of Light

Annual for

1924

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Fifth Year

# EVOLUTION IN A NUTSHELL

All orders and communications from British Isles, should be sent to Mr. U.P. Twainson, Mr. Thwaites, Eligh St., S Norwood, London, 5.25.

A great controversy now rages in the church between the modernists and the conformists. So heated has this discussion become that States have passed laws forbidding evolution to be taught in the schools, as if a fact in nature could be changed by human legislation. It seems, then, an opportune time to present the latest views of material science on evolution. For the views of occult science the reader is referred to the B. of L. lessons.

The astronomers tell us that our universe of perhaps a billion suns is but one of hundreds of thousands of like universes, called spiral nebulae. These universes are in rapid motion in the awful expanse of God's domain, and the pattern formed by them apparently is evolving toward a new design.

The suns within this universe of ours, likewise, are moving with velocities that can be measured, and mostly move in well defined streams. Their size and color and temperature vary. As an iron placed in a blacksmith's forge gets red and passes through lighter shades to become white, so the younger suns, or stars, are red. Such a young red giant is the star Antares. It has been measured by that recent invention, the interferometer. And so huge is it that were it placed where our sun is its surface would be out beyond the orbit of Mars, and the earth would not be half way from its center toward its circumference. Older stars become lighter in color until they reach the blue-white stage of their prime, like the star Vega, then pass through yellow and orange to the dull red of old age. Our sun, a sun perhaps of average size, has passed its prime and is advancing toward old age as shown by its orange color.

The older nebular hypothesis of the earth's formation is giving way to the tidal disruption theory which accounts for the planets by assuming them to be fragments that have been torn from the sun by a passing star. There have been revolutionary discoveries in geology also. Instead of the earth being a molten mass covered with a shell it is now supposed to possess a hard core of metals some 4,000 miles in diameter. These metals, being heavy, sank as the earth cooled, and above them are the basic rocks. Granite being lighter than these basic rocks rose to the top, where it forms a large part of the outer crust. Radio-active metals, however, in certain areas heat the upper basic rocks until they melt and due to their expansion burst through the granite crust as dykes and volcanic flows of lava.

The radio-active metals have also formed another link in evolution. They indicate, through breaking down to form other elements as in the formation of helium from radium, that all the elements of chemistry have been evolved from the same "electrons" and "protons."

The rocks of the earth are quite rigid, but due to the great pressure from above at a certain depth they flow like the ice in a glacier, through recrystallization. The wearing down of mountains by wind and water, as well as volcanic outpourings of the heavier basic rocks, causes a change in weight of sections of the earth's crust, the heavier portions sinking to form ocean basins and the lighter granitic portion, like frosting on a pudding, being elevated. Small adjustments give rise to earthquakes and larger ones cause new mountain ranges to form.

We know that many mountain ranges once existed that are not now, because their remains fill the valleys. Sedimentary rocks were laid down as mud and sand and gravel and then solidified. By their position and other means it can be determined which were laid down first. In these rocks occur the fossilized forms of the life that was washed into the mud and sand. Among the oldest sedimentary rocks there is no evidence of plant or animal life. only what is known to be the product of bacteria. such as vast deposits of iron, of sulphur and of graphyte. As the chief energy element of bacteria is nitrogen, which it captures in the presence of heat, but without the aid of sunlight, bacteria could have thrived on the earth before it had an atmosphere suitable for plants or animals.

Certain forms of algae—like the so-called scum that forms on stagnant pools—are closest in structure to the bacteria. A free-floating form of this plant gives to the Red Sea its color. Plants could only flourish in an atmosphere containing carbon and transparent enough to let the sunlight through. Sunlight, as all know, is destructive to bacteria. Volcanic activity serves a necessary function in evolution by supplying carbon to the atmosphere, for plants and animals are largely carbon. Plants utilize sunlight in the capture of this carbon from the atmosphere. Plants also, even today, are greatly dependent upon bacteria, because they derive their nitrogen from nitrates generated by bacteria and absorbed along with water by their roots.

Some protozoa-the lowest form of animal lifefeed freely on bacteria and some on algae. Algae are responsible for the formation of very massive ancient limestones. Neither plant nor animal life, however, remained in the single-celled forms represented by protozoa and algae. Yet it is evident that higher forms of animal life imply the development first of lower forms of life to serve as food. As we examine the rocks from the oldest to the newest we find the fossils of plants and animals to grow more complex in structure. The types of life so revealed also are accurate gauges of climatic conditions in the past. Only a knowledge of astrology will reveal the fundamental cause of these great climatic changes. Yet as factors under astrological law we may reflect that the highest mountains of today are covered with snow and some of them harbor glaciers. The elevation of new high mountain ranges would usher in a cold period. Geology records seven cold periods, four being glacial ages. separating much longer periods of warmth.

When the warm and shallow seas that geology records, were elevated to form mountain ranges, swift rivers were made and competition, due to the reduced area of the seas, was greatly increased. The kinds of life that could ascend the rivers in search of food and to escape enemies would have a great advantage. Such swift swimming is made

possible by a vertebrae, and so rocks of a certain age, but no older, retain the impressions of fishes, the first vertebrate animals.

Then as the plants began to find suitable soil on the land, to take advantage of this vegetable food supply, the swimming bladder of certain fishes became adapted for breathing and their fins for walking—at least these intermediate forms are yet to be found—and we find in somewhat later rock the remains of amphibians.

The amphibians, however, labored under the disadvantage that they must return to the water to lay their eggs, as do the toads and frogs of our day, even though the water was swarming with dangerous life. To meet the demands of life on the land without the necessity of returning to the water, the rocks next reveal the reptiles. Some of these grew to be as large as whales. And one of the startling discoveries of 1923 was the finding by an American expedition to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia not only one of the most extensive deposits of reptilian skeletons ever unearthed, but also of twenty-five dinosaur eggs. These eggs were laid during the Cretaceous period, some ten million years ago. In several, which had been broken, could plainly be discerned the delicate bone of the embryonic dinosaurs. Further, it was discovered that these giant reptiles had gizzards for grinding food, linking them more closely with the birds than has hitherto been possible.

The birds, coming later in point of time, solved a problem that the reptiles could not. They solved the problem of approaching cold for themselves by developing feathers, and for their young by nests and incubation by bodily heat. The mammals solved the same problem for themselves by the development of hair and fur, and in a fashion for their young superior either to birds or reptiles, for the latter usually depend on the sun to hatch their eggs in the sand and have no care for them when born. The young of mammals are hatched within the protection of the parent's body, and after birth the mother secretes milk as food for her young.

Other types of life apparently had exhausted the possibilities of adaptation of form to the air, the land and the sea, so the next step is specialization in intelligence. Man belongs to the order Primates, along with the monkeys and apes. Some naturalists would place him in the same family with them, but if the same rules of classification be applied to man as to the lower orders, he must be placed in a distinct family from the apes and monkeys, due to characters that show a higher organization. This family, Hominidae, contains but one genus, Homo, which by most zoologists is considered to be composed of a single species divided into several subspecies that blend thoroughly at one point or another. This species is Homo Sapiens.

The nearest living relatives to man are the anthropoid ages. The structural differences that distinguish man from the gorilla and the chimpanzee are not as great as those separating the gorilla from the lower apes. The blood serum of man is poisonous to and destroys the blood corpuscles of the other animals, but does not injure the corpuscles of the anthropoid apes. Such immunity exists only between animals as closely related as horse and donkey, wolf and dog, and hare and rabbit. Certain contagious diseases common to man are possible among the other animals only to the anthropoid apes. The embryos of man and apes develop in precisely the same manner. There is the early gill slits, indicative of fish-like ancestors; there is in both at a certain stage a tail longer than the legs, as well as many other transitional phases in which there is a recapitulation of the ancestry.

Scientific men do not hold that man has for ancestry any living species of ape. The apes and man have been developing almost in opposite directions for at least 2,000,000 years. Man was man before the last great ice age, which lasted 400,000 years, for the most permanent of all race characteristics is the root-words of the language, and the American Indians by their language show they branched off from the old world races before the glacial period cut off communication over the land bridge across what is now Bering Sea.

Man has been man a very long time. The cave men of Europe were driven out by a race coming from no one knows where, but already in possession of a high state of culture. The specialization in intelligence which distinguishes man from other animals, in the present age, is along the lines of mechanics and invention. There was a time when this specialization was toward the discovery of the hidden forces of nature and the truths regarding man's relation to the universe. The huge stone monuments scattered over the face of the earth by these people bear mute testimony to the success of their researches.

They developed their psychic faculties to a point undreamed of at the present day. They understood and practiced communication with exalted intelligences not of the earth. Thus they came to understand the sublime science of astrology, which anyone today can quickly prove for himself. A mechanical civilization they did not have, for their specialization was in spiritual and occult things. Later generations through specializing along more material lines permitted their spiritual faculties to atrophy, even as in 1923 an American expedition to Layson Island found a bird-the Layson flightless rail-losing the power of flight because the little island is isolated and the bird has no place to go. Its wings in time will be mere rudiments, and in man there are no less than 180 such vestigal structures, reminiscent of his animal ancestors.

All forms of life are changing. It needs but time and geographic isolation to produce new species, as in the case of the nine different species of chipmunks in California. Of course, like the savage who insists the phonograph record is a supernatural voice, we can disbelieve the records left by nature. Because we have not seen some forms grow from other forms, we may assert they always were as they are now, and because no one has seen the giant sequoia trees of California—some of which are over 4,000 years old—grow from saplings, we may assert they did not grow but were created as they now appear.

However, the record shows that whenever in the past there was a difficulty to be surmounted, some form of life surmounted it. Material scientists are abandoning the old doctrine of form as the cause of evolution and are adopting an energy concept. But they will never account for evolution fully until they recognize the power of the subliminal mind of a life-form when actuated by desire to attain its object. This psychological power the occultist understands and uses to demonstrate desired results. He realizes also that the next step in evolution on earth is the attainment of universal brotherhood. He also believes that the soul evolves through various forms up to man, and that he evolves from man to angel on a higher plane than the physical.

The evolution of the material scientist, here so briefly outlined, is seen by the occultist to be but one facet of the glorious truth that the destiny of the soul is eternal progression. But this doctrine, that of astrology, how the subliminal mind acts, universal brotherhood, and the spiritual sciences handed down from the past are already to be found treated in The Brotherhood of Light lessons.

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