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What was Darwin's theory of natural selection?

Darwin's theory of natural selection explains that individuals in every particular species naturally vary from norms. Darwin also argues that every species has more members than those who can actually survive. In every generation, more individuals are produced than those who can survive since every individual is competing for survival. The theory also explains that phenotypic variation exists among all individuals and the variations are passed from one generation to another. Individuals who inherited better and quality genes had high chances of survival than those who didn't. When reproductive selection happens then new species will be formed. According to Darwin (1859), variation is an important feature in natural population. Every population produces more progeny than the environment can contain. This makes members to compete for resources making those with better genes to survive and be successful.

¹
What is the key to the success of species?

A species is more successful if it has better genes than the rest. According to Darwin phenotypic variation occurs among populations and the variations are heritable. If the current population possesses better genes than its predecessors then it has better chances of survival.

¹
What evidence does Darwin give that mankind was a product of evolution?

First of all, Darwin insists that creation is majestic and worthy of a majestic creator. Darwin first uses bones of fossil mammals at two different localities to study the comparisons. In two different areas he found bones of extinct mammals with similar characteristics and Darwin wonders why fossils remain of modern species on different localities would resemble each other if they were not from the same origin. After eliminating endemic issues on cases of where species had traveled. He studied Rhea and noted that many species have been replaced by species

that looked alike yet they were distinct. All these changes he attributed to variations whereby the populations he was studying had better genes and characteristics than those which were extinct. Just like mankind was a mammal Darwin was convinced that they had evolved and each generation passed better genes to its offspring making them suitable for survival and even likely to produce better offspring. Darwin continues to argue that man descended from a less highly organized form whereby the difference between him and other animals is the embryonic development.

What does Darwin say about man's belief in God?

Darwin (1871), argues that every species has been independently created and that the production and extinction of the population has been caused by secondary causes. He sees human beings as not special creation but as descendants of beings which were before them. Darwin explains that not all beings will transmit its unchanged likeness to future generations. According to Darwin (1871), this succession of genes to future generations is a cycle that has never being broken since the start of time. Hence, all human beings as generations pass will keep on being perfected and progressing towards perfection. Darwin does belief in God in his theory. Except acknowledging that living things were created by a mighty creator, Darwin did not believe in God but in evolution. The theory renders faith in God as unnecessary but Darwin does not write publicly on how men should view religion or God. Darwin seems very reticent on matters on personal beliefs and even reluctant to mention or discuss this matters with others.

Darwin believes that that believe in God is the most advanced and complete distinction that man has over other animals. Man is diffused through effects of example, habits, reflection and even instructions. Most habits of beliefs in men have been inherited. A man's concise is his biggest

monitor and judge. According to Darwin (1871), they are gained from natural selection. No matter what a man believes in he will always remember that he is from a low origin.

Identify Samuel Wilberforce's objections to the theory of evolution.

Wilberforce (1860), believes that anybody who does not believe in the existence of God and the God of truth and revelation cannot believe that there is God and that he is the creator of everything. Wilberforce claims that Darwin is not a true believer because true believers do not question facts about nature but walks amongst the truth of the nature. Wilberforce asserts that men cannot test truths of science with revelations or word in the book of God. Even when this is the case, Wilberforce, understands that scientific grounds and scientific errors cannot be ignored or outdone with. Christians do not disapprove the existence of science but Darwin and the way he wrote his theory it's like he is trying to disapprove the existence of God. According to Wilberforce his speculations tend to disapprove the existence of God as the creator of nature.

Wilberforce believes that man could not have evolved because man has power over every other creation. Man was given power of articulate, power of reason, will and even responsibility. Man was created in God's own image and everyone who believes in God can see reason in this. According to Wilberforce (1860), Darwin explanations of how man has grown over shape and size through natural selection as a result of unknown powers is inconsistent with the word of God.

1

How does St. George Jackson Mivart deal with the theory of evolution? Does he see a conflict between Christianity and the theory of evolution?

Mivart was a catholic convert who wrote to reply on the theory of Charles Darwin. According to Mivart creation means origination of anything and everything from God's supernatural powers

(Chhetri, 2014). Anything God has created might have the power to evolve under suitable conditions. Mivart explains that human beings have direct supernatural action, physical action and hyperphysical action and all these actions belong to the nature. According Mivart, physical science and evolution have nothing to do primary creation. He sees the conflict between Christianity and theory of evolution is that Darwin tries to explain the first links of creation which are beyond physical philosophy. The evolution theory explains past link in the development of nature but does not explain how creation began. The original operation of the divine volition to constitute of matter is not explained and is beyond anyone's explanation.

There are some concerns that both Christians and atheists should not argue with. Mivart argues that the conflict between this theory and Christianity has risen from misunderstandings. It has been brought by the fact that people understand 'creation' differently. Others think that evolution means that God does not exists. The conflict arose because many imagined that the theory of evolution combated the interests of religion. In plain truth, Christian free thinkers can accept the general theory of Darwin. According to Mivart in Genesis, the gospel explains that every creation was given potential in which time should unfold and make plain (Chhetri, 2014). This means that nature was created derivatively. Most people want miracles and the law of nature does not look for miracles. Human beings cannot go against the one truth in the gospel which says that man is made in God's image and likeness. Man was created from dust and breathed the breath of life. This shows that man was created from already preexisting materials. But the soul of man was created by God only. No one knows how and this is a sacred doctrine of the church. According to Mivart, man was formed in two ways, one by almighty God and the other one using material from nature (Chhetri, 2014). This means that a part of man's body can be controlled by natural selection from Darwin's theory.

If scientist and Christians can find harmony in this theory, then conflicts can be resolved easily.

There can be true reconciliation of religion and science. People cannot explain first creation except from the Bible. These two field are neither losing nor gaining they are complementary to each other.

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