

EVOLUTION SUNDAY: February 12, 2006

"Evolution Is the Supreme Intelligence in Action"

(MESSAGE)

Introduction: This is the 197th birthday of Charles Darwin. Why is this important enough to bring to the forefront this message about "evolution" which I consider as a special pinpoint of High Spirituality? It is for two reasons. The first is that I consider that the truth about God's relationship to creation and science's conception of evolution as wholly compatible. I believe that the bringing into being of all that exists as having been both the _expression of Supreme Intelligence with thoughtful designs and the unfolding of creation through evolution as simply two ways of looking at the same thing.

You will likely remember the old story about how seven blind men were asked to describe an elephant, and one described the trunk, another the tail, another the huge body, still another the massive ears, and so on. So, as time goes on, the idea of "Intelligent Design" and "evolution" will be remembered as the first two ways that the extraordinary nature of this universe or all universes have come about. Perhaps the later explanations will be take-offs from these two somewhat primary understandings, yet there is so much more to understand, and how can we accomplish that until we accept the earliest awarenesses of what is.

So, I see that there are presently two solid reasons for seeking a compatibility for science to show its wares in the schoolroom and for churches and other religious institutions to show theirs in separate ways. Inasmuch as we love the history of how our nation was settled, why should we toss aside the plan to keep church and state or religion and government separate? The first reason for seeking the compatibility is because both religion and science, or intuition and reason have a solid basis for appealing to our sensibilities. No one can live happily, peacefully, and civilly without some form of faith. Nor can anyone live a satisfactory life without pursuing hypotheses with reason, for science has given us vast quantities of solutions to overcome disease, poverty, and boredom. We can truly say that a great many people have peace of mind and better lives because their thoughts about spirituality have inspired them towards splendid behaviors. Also, we can just as truly believe that science has made it possible for everyone to live more comfortably, and with opportunities that have taken us from either slave labor or having to only follow our ancestral trades. Moreover, as we become more conscious of who we are, most of us use hypotheses in our thoughts so as to consider how we can relate to our changing world.

The second reason is that evolution simply means unfoldment. We have unfolded the rights to choose our spiritual track, our right for expressing a variety of opinions and awarenesses, and the experience of life that contains the equality that increasingly is promising fair privileges for all. This evolvement is enough proof that the word *evolution* means continual improvement. Even for those of us who believe the original life that was given us was perfect, through evolution we are being brought again into perfect opportunities for living in camaraderie and individual self-expressiveness. This leads to my saying that what we think of as God is the overriding or underlying care that is given us through the evolution of both nature and our development of the lives of the Spirit.

(Next: I will describe three points which are specified here and for which some explanation is given. Further illustrations can appropriately be included)

1. God is the Supreme Intelligence_(The Mind Behind)

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God is the entire cause of what is considered the "creation." The Supreme Intelligence has emanated Itself into everything that exists. The Supreme Intelligence is Mind and is everywhere present. Therefore, the creation is best considered as Its _expression. An excellent illustration is that the Cause is the Supreme Artist behind and within all that exists. A Master Artist always expresses himself or herself in the picture that becomes a masterpiece of great worth.

2. Evolution is the expression of the Grand Master (The Universal Energy in Action)

Evolution is the means through which the Grand Master has expressed Itself in beauty! and excellence - with Unlimited Intelligence. Step by step, an evolution of energy, from particles and waves, then from one-celled plants and animals, has resulted in Intelligent Beings "made in Its image" being brought into existence. The Mind has always stepped into each new creation making the all into creatures and other expressions which have needs for survival and advances of greater expressiveness. Evolution then is the activity both to survive and to advance the expressiveness of the Master Artist and Supreme Author of all that is. Here, I have to declare that one of my all-time favorite poems is "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson. (Here I will read the poem and with an enthusiasm.) That poem is beautiful, and so is the creation story in the Bible which originated with the people of ancient Sumeria. It was borrowed by the nation of Israel because it had greatly influenced their developing viewpoint. Most people who have thought the story of creation within the Judeo-Christian Bible is to be taken literally have equally embraced this poem as another description of the same beginning. Cannot there be room again to reflect upon how it is that all has come about through an unfoldment of that gaseous explosion, "the big bang," billions of years ago? Many people have satisfied themselves with the idea from the Bible that with God a thousand years is as a day and a day as a thousand years. In our time, we have discovered that somewhat recently thousands became millions, and more recently millions became billions, and now billions are becoming trillions. It is not that much of a leap then, to see evolution as being a reasonable explanation of the eons involved in developing the creatures and the forming of rocks, sand, and all matter of things.

3. No conflict exists between Creation and Evolution (Creation is the Outcome of Energy's being Expressed)

To create anything that is new or better, the earlier forms of Mind have to be made more invulnerable to demise and more effective for greater expressiveness. The pinnacle comes about as the highest expressed beings are further given the ability to evolve themselves and the handicrafts of their Spirits. The Grand Master continues to evolve universes and the thoughts of Its most insightful creatures so that the creative work goes forward through the people who recognize that they are centered in Divine Energy. The science of people and the faiths of them are empowered as both science and religion move forward together without judgments that undermine the work that the Grand Master is doing in and through all people. As both science and religion move forward together, the creation evolves the Spirits of all people and all that has been created. No further interruptions of a bettered world can take place so long as respect increases and continues in the acceptances that we make of both science and religion.

The present idea which seems to be bringing about divisiveness between some Christians and the general scientific stance includes a belief that Charles Darwin's understanding is the final word as regards the nature of evolution. Few if any scientists would agree to that. Darwin was great because he opened up the idea of what evolution could be. Since his time, many adjustments in the scientific world have been made. For instance, "emergent evolution" relates to how need brings about adjustments of creatures, bodies, and other shifts in the way the earth functions.

Another great biologist was Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) a contemporary of Darwin, who arrived at a similar understanding. He actually presented some aspects of his theories to the scientific community slightly before Darwin. In his awareness, evolution was the work of God. So, the emergence of science and religion working together is not only possible, but has an historical precedence. It would be especially valuable if people would research and consider both of these men and their findings. Some contemporary reference books describe them both. In addition, the idea of respecting and deeply appreciating both the scientists and the belief that God is the Supreme Intelligence behind all and in all is a resourcefulness that can bring us to a higher and more fruitful understanding.

Conclusion: Let us then recognize that spirituality is in itself evolving. The same scriptures of the past and some same hierarchies continue, but increasingly, everyone finds himself or herself with a slightly different understanding about Truth. This is good for us because it increases personal dignities. This has come about because the evolution of individuality in each of our lives is an inevitable experience. It is built into all of us to be our own persons. This gives us the sense of self-esteem which is as great a personal value as we presently know. Inasmuch as this is increasingly a great resource for everyone, something in us is continuing to evolve or unfold our individual potentialities. Some may say that it is God. Others may say that it is a further evidence of evolution. Are they not one and the same?