

The Machinery of Evolution

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5; 3:18-23

Introduction:

Having laid some important groundwork for our series on "Creation vs. Evolution," I want to now move on to discuss what I call the "machinery" of evolution. How does evolution, the changing of one kind of creature into another, actually take place, according to the evolutionist?

Well, there are two key components, or two main engines that drive the whole evolutionary ship, namely, Natural Selection and Mutations. Both "natural selection" and "mutations" fall within the realm of observational Science. However, the presumptions and conclusions drawn, concerning the nature of these two realities, from an evolutionary standpoint, fall into the realm of historical Science, and are full of many gross and unobservable speculations. Let us then look more closely at these two driving components of evolution.

I. Natural Selection

What is natural selection? Natural selection is "the process by which individuals possessing a set of traits that confer a survival advantage in a given environment tend to leave more offspring on average that survive to reproduce in the next generation." (Patterson, 243)

Last time, we spoke about created kinds, and how creationists would agree that many different species have come from individual created kinds, or what I call "proto-kinds." And I stated that the genetic information for every successive species (varying colors, types, suitability for different environments...etc) is carried within the "proto-kind." For example, all of the dog species can be found within the genes of the original wolf. And so, as the original wolves (male and female) pro-created, the stage for forming new kinds of dog species was set. In some small way, let me give you another illustration that can help explain this, before we move on in seeking to grasp an understanding of this process; this observable process, called "natural selection."

Many years ago, I can remember a time when a female cat that we had owned had given birth to several young kittens. And these kittens were very different. I believe one was gray, another was black, another was orange, and another was black and white. And furthermore, some of them were less furry than the others. I can distinctly remember the orange one, standing out as quite unique, very furry, looking almost like a baby lion. The others were not as furry. They had a different make-up. Now, how could this be? Well, the information for all of those colors and for the different hair grades was carried somewhere within the parents. You see, living creatures carry much more information than they

visibly manifest. And before the fall; before genetic defects and corruption entered the world, the original kinds, had a perfect and complete set of DNA for every species that would come through them. But again, all of this is bound within each created kind. There is not a shred of evidence anywhere, showing DNA information in any created kind, which would indicate that the information for another created kind can be found there as well. Again, dogs do not carry the information to make birds; hippos do not carry the information to make whales...etc.

Now, back to "natural selection." What happens when an animal from a created kind procreates in an environment, which because of the fall of mankind, challenges the survival of that animal? Among its varying offspring, those which are best suited to survive that environmental challenge, will survive, and the others will not. And the survivors will mate and an entire species of that one survivor, will adapt and continue to live on. The natural conditions, as it were, have "selected" them to continue on or to be the dominant species at best, assuming some of the others still manage to survive. And so, let me give you an example to help better explain what I am saying here.

Suppose a group of cats, like the one I had several years ago, due to a growing population of alligators, has migrated to a different location, which happens to be much colder. They mate and have kittens, such as the ones I described before. The shorter haired kittens, are incapable of maintaining a sufficient body temperature to survive, and so, most of them die. A few, however, manage to find a small location that provides some manner of warmth, and protection from the elements. The furry cats, however, survive and prosper, ultimately reproducing, and more and more furry cats start to fill the area, while a small pack of short haired cats still live in that small burrow. Most of the short haired cats just die, and eventually, due to genetic, DNA information loss, only furry kittens (which are now obviously mating only with furry kittens) are being produced. This would be an example of natural selection. In one sense, micro-evolution has taken place...a species from within a kind has adapted and moved its own species forward, while the weaker kind, due to environmental conditions, has not survived.

Now, it is important to note a few things about this example, which is universal for all examples of natural selection:

1) This process only happens within the created kinds. In other words, you never see, say, a cat that adapts by growing and becoming a bird. All of the information needed for long and furry haired cats exists within the created cat kind. And this goes for dogs and birds and fish and on and on and on.

2) It is possible, over time, for the furry kittens to actually lose the information to make short haired kittens, but again, this involves a loss of information and not a gain of new information, and that is the main problem with evolution. You see, evolution observes the process I just explained to you, and transposes it into the realm of macro-evolution, assuming that these changes (with the help of "mutations" and millions of years, which we will consider shortly), enable the different kinds to evolve into other kinds (Ex: birds to dinosaurs, apes to man...etc). Natural selection never, ever adds new information. It cannot, because the information does not exist. My toothbrush will never walk and

talk...it can't. At best, natural selection maintains the information it has, and more often than not, because of the fall, it leads to a loss of information.

Now, let me carry our example a bit further for a moment. Suppose the environment changes in that region and the temperature moves up to a very hot and dry, desert like temperature? What happens to our furry cats, if they remain? Many, or even all, begin to die off, because they cannot maintain a safe body temperature for that environment. But what happens to our small community of short haired cats in the borrow? They come out, they begin to do well in this environment; they reproduce unto survival, and ultimately they become the dominant species. You see, this is how natural selection works. And factors such as environmental adaptability, ability to catch food, ability to fend off or dodge predators, among other things, weigh into the types of changes that are witnessed among the varying species, from within the created kinds. The non-adaptable, weaker species may migrate to another environment that favors them, and this is how the different species spread out into varying areas, though they came from their original kinds ("speciation").

You see, but again, wall nuts do not have the information to make turtles. It's just not there. Take as much time as you like, you cannot turn a volley ball into an Ipod. You see, brethren, but ungodly Scientists draw an unobservable line between micro and macro-evolution, making assumptions that are utterly fallacious; and because natural selection is true and observable, we are prone toward swallowing the whole pill. Do you see why you have to be prepared to teach your children about these things? There is enough truth in the whole system; there is enough truth in the realm of natural selection and micro-evolution, to easily lead them to swallow the whole pill. Add peer pressure and a natural bent toward ungodliness into the equation, and the danger is multiple-fold!

Now, before we add some additional conclusive statements about natural selection, we need to say a few things about "mutations," because mutations are the evolutionist's mechanism for merging micro-evolution into macro-evolution. Mutations supposedly provide the explanation for how kinds evolve into other kinds, throughout the process of natural selection. You see, natural selection provides the catalyst or the environment, which would provoke evolution, and mutations are the means used to accomplish the evolutionary change, needed to survive in that particular environment. Giraffes can't reach those high trees for food; the environment has given them the tall trees, and so, by means of mutations and a whole lot of time, they have to grow them necks longer to reach the trees!