

红杉树

大话名人

讲述鲜为人知的名人轶事

另类成长故事

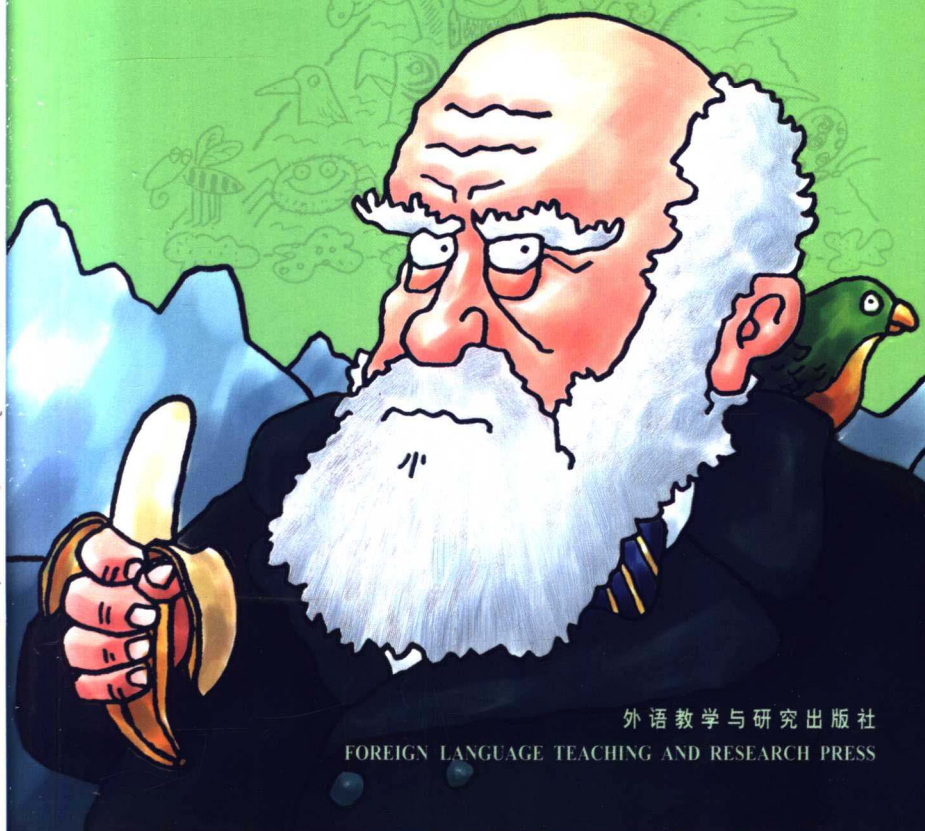
达尔文

CHARLES

DARWIN

and a selection of others (naturally)

Dennis Hamley (英) 著



外语教学与研究出版社

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Mike Mosedale (英) 插图

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

北京 BEIJING

京权图字: 01 - 2005 - 4666

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

另类成长故事 达尔文 = Charles Darwin: and a selection of others (naturally) / (英)哈姆利(Hamley, D.)著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2006.6

(大话名人)

ISBN 7-5600-5551-6

I. 另… II. 哈… III. ①英语—语言读物 ②达尔文—生平事迹 IV. H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 046437 号

出 版 人: 李朋义

责任编辑: 王霖霖

封面设计: 高 鹏

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京京师印务有限公司

开 本: 850×1168 1/32

印 张: 2.875

版 次: 2006 年 7 月第 1 版 2006 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-5600-5551-6

定 价: 5.90 元

* * *

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CONTENTS

目 录



Chapter 11

第 1 章

What did people think before Darwin?

达尔文之前的时代

Chapter 210

第 2 章

Who made Charles Darwin?

家世

Chapter 314

第 3 章

A lab in the shed

少年求学时光

Chapter 419

第 4 章

Tiny details, big questions

小细节，大问题

Chapter 525

第 5 章

A professor, a brown owl, a beetle and a girlfriend

教授、棕色猫头鹰、甲虫和女朋友

Chapter 632

第 6 章

Sailing on the *Beagle*

乘“比格尔号”航行

Chapter 738

第 7 章

Right around the world – part 1

环游世界——第一部

Chapter 848

第 8 章

Right around the world – part 2

环游世界——第二部

Chapter 957

第 9 章

The new life and marriage

新生活与结婚

Chapter 1065

第 10 章

Life at Down House

在唐别墅的生活

Chapter 1172

第 11 章

The Origin of Species

〈物种起源〉

Chapter 1279

第 12 章

And afterwards?

后来

Chapter 1384

第 13 章

Where shall we bury Charles?

葬身何处

Chapter 1486

第 14 章

And now?

今日影响

Chapter 1

第 1 章



What did people think
before Darwin?

达尔文之前的时代

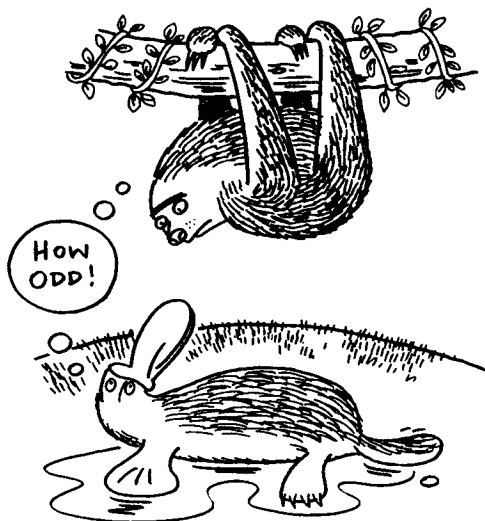
Darwin? Who's Darwin?

It's a long story. First of all, here's a simple question. Where do you come from?

No, I don't mean, "I come from Ashton-under-Lyne," or even Stow-on-the-Wold. I mean—where do you as a human being come from?

No, I don't mean, "I was found under a gooseberry bush*," or "the stork* brought me," or even how it really happens (though we won't go into that now).

I mean, where do you as a *human being* come from, as opposed to where do you as a three-toed sloth come from, or where do you as a duck-billed platypus come from?

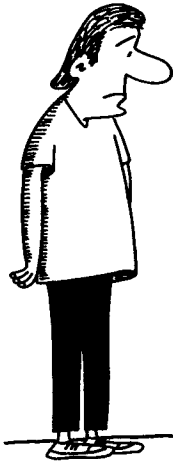


Well, I come from apes, don't I? They're the nearest to human beings. Some learned to stand up straight, use their hands, make tools, speak, put clothes on, and there you go—US. Not bad. BUT—if I'd asked you that question at any time before 1859, what would you have said?

* gooseberry bush —— 茶藨子灌木（丛），这里指对小孩子说的婴儿产生于茶藨子灌木丛的哄骗话。

* stork —— 鹤，传说能给人们带来婴儿。

The same?



DEFINITELY NOT. If you were Christian or Jewish, you would have said that you were descended from Adam and Eve. After God made the world in seven days, he made all the animals (birds, fish, reptiles and other creatures) and *then* he made human beings to be

their masters. But Adam and Eve messed up in the garden of Eden, and we've regretted it ever since.

There's no time now to go into what you would believe if you weren't Christian or Jewish.

Just a minute. Why did you say 1859?

Because that's when Charles Darwin published his great book, *The Origin of Species**.

Yes, but what about scientists before 1859? They didn't believe that, did they?

Yes. They saw things differently then.

* *The Origin of Species* — 《物种起源》，达尔文在书中提出了自然选择的生物进化论。

How?

Nowadays—scientists believe their job is to find out what lies behind nature and use it if they can, both for our knowledge and our benefit. Or to blow us to bits.

Then—scientists believed their job was to find out what lay behind nature TO EXPLAIN THE WORKINGS OF GOD. Many scientists were themselves priests and clergymen.

There's a great difference. And here's what they believed.

- a) The Earth, according to the *Bible*, was about 6,000 years old.
- b) It had been made the way God designed it and had not changed. Nor would it.
- c) All species were fixed. So three-toed sloths came into the world as three-toed sloths and three-toed sloths they would remain. The same applied to duck-billed platypuses. They had been like that for all time and that's how they would stay. This rule was so important that it was given a name—

THE IMMUTABILITY OF SPECIES.

Immutability?

Yes. Incapable of change. And why couldn't they change?

BECAUSE GOD CREATED THEM.

So there they were, all those prosperous people in the 19th century. They believed that nothing would ever change. They believed that they as human beings were special. God had created them separately from all other living beings. The world was like a great league table.



1. God.
2. Angels.
3. Mammals (including human beings).
4. }
5. } *Absolutely everything else in the world*
6. } *to infinity.*
7. }

I reckon that if you could be sure of that, then you'd feel pretty good.

I suppose so. Did they?

Oh yes. As the 19th century got started, English people really felt confident. Why, they knew nearly everything there was to be known. They'd explored most of the world. They'd found animal and bird species they had never heard of and were on the lookout for more.



They'd found
savage tribes which
needed civilizing.
Who better to do it

than your English
19th-century gentleman?
After all, who was more
civilized than him? A good
reason to conquer half the
world and call it your empire.

Besides, they had steam engines and great factories full of machinery. They could do pretty well anything they wanted to—so they thought. Why, one day they might even learn how to fly.

Oh, yes, they felt GREAT!



THEN ALONG COMES DARWIN AND SAYS, "IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL."

Well, what would you feel?

Gutted?

Probably. But would you believe it?

I wouldn't want to.

No, you wouldn't. Especially as it seemed to deny that God existed.

Well, doesn't it?

What do you think? It all depends on how you read the *Book of Genesis** about how the world was made. The *Bible* and Darwin can't *both* be right.

Or can they?

You tell me.

Later, later. Meanwhile, this is the battleground. Is it CREATION? Or is it EVOLUTION?

* *Book of Genesis* —— (基督教《圣经》中的)《创世记》，主要叙述上帝创造世界、亚当和夏娃被赶出伊甸园等故事。

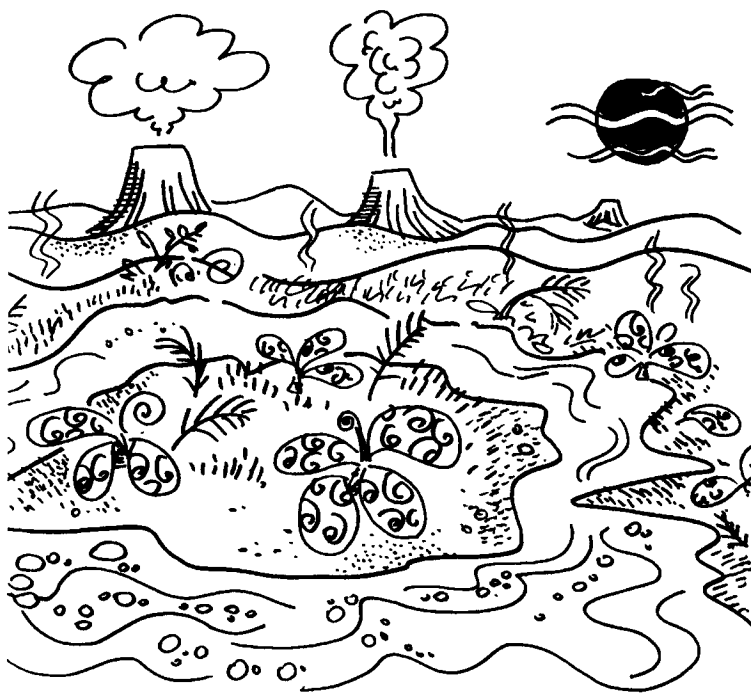
Evolution? What's that?

When things change and develop over a very, very long time.

So what's creation?

When things come into being separately, caused by a maker.

Evolution must mean that all life started from the same source—probably a tiny microbe in the mud when the Earth first began.



Creation certainly means that each being was made separately, with a purpose and as part of a great design.

EVOLUTION versus CREATION. Which was it to be?

★ ★ ★ ★

Chapter 2

第 2 章



Who made Charles Darwin?

家世

His mum and dad, of course.

I know. But here's the first hint of what evolution may be.

Meet: On his father's side—ERASMUS DARWIN.

A very fat man. And brilliant as well. He was into everything: fascinated by the new canals, the first steam engines. He even wondered if all he'd been told about how God made the world and all the animals was really true. In 1796, 13 years before



Charles was born, he wrote a book—*Zoonomia**. In it, he worked out his ideas. Some people thought these ideas were mad, others that they were bad. Just a few thought they were wonderful.

But the time for these ideas had not yet come. Besides, they were only ideas. He had no proof and didn't know where to get it from.

Meet: On his mother's side—JOSIAH WEDGWOOD.

Ever heard of Wedgwood Pottery? Have you been to Stoke-on-Trent? Not just the home of Sir Stanley Matthews, the famous footballer, but of china cups, saucers and dinner plates as well. Josiah started it. In his Etruria Works* he organized almost the

* *Zoonomia* —— 《动物生物学》，书中提出了早期的进化观点。

* Etruria Works —— 伊特鲁里亚工厂，取名源于意大利中西部古国，该地曾出土黑色瓷器。

first factory run on modern lines. Soon the 19th century would be full of industrialists like him. And the 20th, the 21st and the 22nd—maybe.

So there we are. Two men years before their time, not afraid to change things and think for themselves.

Two generations later, Charles combined the qualities of both. That, very shortly, is what evolution is. Erasmus's son, Robert, married Josiah's daughter, Susannah.

Robert was a doctor and they settled in Shrewsbury. Robert was also a financial whizz-kid. Nowadays, he'd have gone to the City and made millions. Instead he stayed at home doctoring, investing his money and helping people into business. That was the time to do it. The Industrial Revolution* was definitely on and there were fortunes to be made.

No wonder he had lots of patients. They might not get better but they could get rich. And Robert did too. Lucky for Charles.

Robert and Susannah had three daughters, Marianne, Caroline and Susan. Then came a son, Erasmus, named after his grandad. At last, in 1809, when Susannah was 44, Charles

* the Industrial Revolution ——（18世纪60年代在英国开始的）产业革命