



## The Ghost of Thomas Huxley

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In 1859 Charles Darwin published his work "On the Origin of Species" in which he set forth his theory of natural selection as the mechanism that accounts for life's evolutionary history. Almost immediately Thomas Huxley, a biologist and contemporary of Darwin, became his most avid supporter earning the title "Darwin's Bulldog".

It is interesting that Huxley had a view of Darwin's theory and its place in Victorian England that was almost prophetic for America in our own times. He saw relatively little scientific value in Darwin's theory...the evidentiary gulf between premise and conclusion was just too large...but he did see something else. Huxley was an avid agnostic (he invented the word) and what he saw in Darwin's theory was that it provided a *counter-story* to the Genesis account of the origins of mankind and in Darwin's story there was no place for God. Darwin's naturalistic explanation of the creation of mankind provided the basis for a new secular religion to replace Christianity which Huxley judged was no longer adequate to meet the needs of late nineteenth century England. And he saw public education as the means for spreading this new faith.

The paucity of evidence supporting his theory greatly troubled Darwin but it served Huxley's purposes quiet well in that it provided a *blanket-of-ignorance* to cover some of the troubling facts. While you could not prove Darwin was right, neither could you prove that he was wrong. Thus Huxley went about the business of selling Darwinism...a secular religion...in the name of science and for the average Englishman *Darwin's Bulldog* was very convincing.

Huxley devoted the next 30 years of his life to evangelizing England with this new secular gospel. As evidenced today throughout England and Europe, he was enormously successful. It took almost 400 years to establish Christianity as a dominant cultural force in Western civilization. It only took 100 years for Darwinism to uproot it...at least in Europe.

Things went very well for Darwin in Europe, but what about America? Not so good...at least not out in the heart land. Suffice it to say that the academic world and elite progressives like Margret Sanger, Sigmund Freud, John Dewey, Alfred Kinsey and Oliver Wendell Holmes were

enamored with Darwinism for all the same reasons Thomas Huxley was...its role as a secular religion...but Darwin didn't play so well in America's public schools (and still doesn't). Most students just don't buy it.

It is almost incomprehensible to believe that such a thing could happen in America but through a series of court cases beginning in 1968 and culminating in a Supreme Court decision in 1987, creation science was outlawed from the public school classroom and evolution was, in effect, endorsed by the highest court in the land as the official creation story of America. Darwinism finally reigned supreme in America, not because of its scientific merits, but through the assistance of liberal judges and justices in the judicial system who were caught up in the social reform movement that emerged in America after World War II.

We might ask at this point how Darwin's theory holds up to scrutiny in the light of our modern understanding of biology. Jerry Coyne, Professor of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago, recently provided some insight that bears on this question. In his review in the journal "Nature" of David Mindell's book "The Evolving World: Evolution in Every-day Life", Coyne echoes Huxley's view about Darwinism in his criticism of Mindell for going overboard on "selling Darwin".

Coyne says..."To some extent these excesses are not Mindell's fault, for, if truth be told, evolution hasn't yielded many practical or commercial benefits"...and..."future advances [in biology] will almost certainly come from transgenics, which is not based on evolution at all"...and..."In the end, the true value of evolutionary biology is not practical but explanatory. It answers, in the most exquisitely simple and parsimonious way, the age-old question: How did we get here?"

There you have it. Coyne, over 100 years after Huxley, sees evolution pretty much the same way Huxley did - not much use with respect to science but as a secular religion, a real winner!

Huxley, in his day, took advantage of the *blanket-of-ignorance* to convincingly sell a secular religion in the name of science. What is different today is that our understanding of biology far exceeds the relatively primitive understanding of Darwin's day. Darwin and Huxley knew nothing of the genetic code and the vast information content of DNA, and were clueless about molecular machinery and the staggering complexity of the regulatory, control and information processing activities that takes place in the cell...all of which (to the disgust of Darwinists) have the unmistakable appearance of being designed.

Given a sufficient level of ignorance, Darwinism can be somewhat convincing as was the case in Huxley's time. However, in light of present knowledge, there simply is no justification for concluding that the mechanism of natural selection acting on chance genetic mutations can account for biology as we understand it today. And mainstream science knows this.

The teaching of biological evolution in the public school classrooms of America has the appearance of being a massive scam with the same

objective Huxley had in England over 100 years ago...the promotion of a secular religion and the destruction of Christianity.

If there is a scam, are public education administrators and teachers implicated? After cycling two or three generations of science teachers through the universities it appears that many...may even most... science teachers defend the present "you don't question Darwin" policy but I also believe that they are acting in good faith and have the best interest of their students at heart. It is likely that they themselves are victims of the scam.

I suspect that the scam did not originate in public education...actually, it originated with Huxley 150 years ago...but rather public education was manipulated by educational, scientific and legal establishments that are themselves products of higher education which is now dominated by materialism.

Exposing the scientific and legal misrepresentations and deceptions that underlie this scam is easy and this will be addressed in future articles. The more difficult part will be to get lawmakers and public education officials to take you seriously enough to listen. Even more difficult will be the corrective action which will inevitably involve the courts. Because lawyers, judges, educators and scientists all drink the same Kool-Aid (they all go to the same universities) it is highly unlikely that a fair hearing can be obtained. While "We the People" in America have not bought into Huxley's scam, our institutions have.

It all reduces to this. Thomas Jefferson taught, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, that our unalienable rights to life and liberty are given by God. Public Education teaches that there is no God. Where does that leave our unalienable rights?

As we ponder these things we might want to remember that the ghost of Thomas Huxley continues to haunt the science classrooms of America's public schools.

Next month: Exposing the scam and the exorcism of Thomas Huxley