

the descent of man

the descent of man is a topic that has fascinated scholars and laypeople alike for generations. Tracing the evolutionary journey of humans from early primates to modern *Homo sapiens*, this subject touches on biology, anthropology, history, and philosophy. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the key concepts behind human evolution, analyze the scientific theories proposed by Charles Darwin and others, and examine the physical and behavioral traits that distinguish humans from other species. We'll also discuss the impact of "the descent of man" on modern thought, its significance in scientific discourse, and the ongoing debates that shape our understanding of humanity's origins. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply curious about the story of human evolution, this article will provide valuable insights into the descent of man, its implications for science, and its relevance in today's world.

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Understanding the Descent of Man: Historical Context

The concept of the descent of man refers to the scientific and philosophical exploration of human origins and evolution. Before the advent of evolutionary theory, most cultures explained human existence through mythology, religion, or folklore. The idea that humans shared ancestry with other animals was controversial and challenged deeply held beliefs about humanity's place in the natural world.

During the 19th century, advancements in biology and geology paved the way for a more evidence-based approach to the question of human origins. Fossil discoveries, comparative anatomy, and the study of ancient tools began to reveal a picture of gradual change over time. This shift in perspective laid the groundwork for the acceptance of evolutionary theory and the scientific investigation into the descent of man.

Charles Darwin and the Theory of Human Evolution

Darwin's Revolutionary Ideas

Charles Darwin's publication of "The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex" in 1871 was a milestone in evolutionary biology. Building on the principles established in "On the Origin of Species," Darwin argued that humans are not a separate creation but rather evolved from common ancestors shared with other primates. He introduced the concept of sexual selection alongside natural selection, explaining how traits related to reproduction and mate choice also influence evolutionary outcomes.

Impact on Scientific Thought

The descent of man challenged prevailing views of human uniqueness and sparked intense debate within scientific and religious communities. Darwin's theories prompted further research into human anatomy, behavior, and genetics, encouraging scientists to search for evidence of human evolution in fossils, comparative morphology, and living species.

- Shifted focus from static creation models to dynamic evolutionary processes
- Inspired the fields of anthropology, paleontology, and genetics
- Encouraged interdisciplinary studies of human behavior and origins

Key Evidence Supporting the Descent of Man

Fossil Records

The fossil record provides compelling evidence for the descent of man. Discoveries of transitional forms, such as *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Neanderthals*, reveal a sequence of evolutionary changes leading to modern humans. Fossils show the gradual development of bipedalism, increased cranial capacity, and complex tool use, supporting the idea of common ancestry with other primates.

Genetic Studies

Advancements in genetics have revolutionized our understanding of human evolution. DNA analysis confirms that humans share approximately 98-99% of their genetic material with chimpanzees and bonobos, our closest living relatives. The Human Genome Project and subsequent studies have identified genes responsible for traits like language, brain development, and immune response, highlighting both our similarities and differences with other species.

Comparative Anatomy and Behavior

Comparative anatomy demonstrates key physical similarities between humans and other primates, including opposable thumbs, forward-facing eyes, and similar skeletal structures. Behavioral studies show that traits such as cooperation, tool use, and social communication are present in varying degrees across primate species, underscoring the evolutionary continuity between humans and their ancestors.

Unique Traits and Adaptations of Human Beings

Bipedalism and Locomotion

One of the defining features of human evolution is bipedal locomotion. The descent of man is marked by adaptations in the pelvis, spine, and lower limbs that allow for upright walking. This change freed the hands for tool use, manipulation, and gestural communication, setting the stage for further cognitive and technological advancements.

Brain Development and Cognitive Abilities

Human brains are larger and more complex than those of other primates, especially in regions associated with language, reasoning, and abstract thought. The descent of man involved the gradual expansion of neural networks, enabling problem-solving, creativity, and the development of culture.

1. Language and symbolic communication
2. Advanced problem-solving skills
3. Complex social structures

4. Use of tools and technology

Culture and Social Evolution

The capacity for culture is a hallmark of human evolution. The descent of man encompasses the emergence of art, music, religion, and social norms. These cultural innovations allowed humans to adapt to diverse environments, cooperate in large groups, and pass knowledge across generations.

The Descent of Man in Modern Science and Society

Influence on Anthropology and Genetics

Modern anthropology relies on the principles of the descent of man to study human diversity, migration, and adaptation. Genetic research continues to uncover new insights into ancient interbreeding events, population movements, and the origins of physical and behavioral traits.

Educational and Ethical Implications

Understanding the descent of man has significant implications for education, ethics, and public policy. Teaching evolutionary theory promotes scientific literacy and critical thinking, while acknowledging common ancestry fosters greater appreciation for biodiversity and the interconnectedness of life.

Societal Impact

The descent of man has influenced debates about race, gender, and human rights. Insights from evolutionary biology challenge notions of inherent superiority or inferiority among groups, encouraging more inclusive and equitable perspectives on human differences.

Ongoing Controversies and Future Directions

Debates in Evolutionary Theory

Despite overwhelming scientific consensus, the descent of man remains a topic of debate in some circles. Critics of evolutionary theory raise questions about gaps in the fossil record, the mechanisms of speciation, and the interpretation of genetic data. These discussions drive further research and refinement of evolutionary models.

New Discoveries and Technological Advances

Technological innovations in DNA sequencing, archaeology, and artificial intelligence are transforming the study of human evolution. Ongoing discoveries of ancient fossils, artifacts, and genomes continue to enrich our understanding of the descent of man and its significance in the broader context of life on Earth.

Interdisciplinary Research

Future research on the descent of man will likely involve collaboration across disciplines such as biology, anthropology, psychology, and computer science. Integrating data from multiple fields promises to yield deeper insights into the origins, development, and future of the human species.

Questions and Answers about the Descent of Man

Q: What does "the descent of man" mean in evolutionary biology?

A: "The descent of man" refers to the scientific study of human evolution, tracing the origins and development of *Homo sapiens* from ancient primate ancestors through a series of transitional species.

Q: Who first proposed the theory of the descent of man?

A: Charles Darwin is credited with formally proposing the theory of the descent of man in his 1871 book, expanding on his earlier work on natural selection and emphasizing shared ancestry with other primates.

Q: What are some key fossil discoveries related to the descent of man?

A: Important fossil discoveries include *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, and Neanderthals, which illustrate the gradual evolution of bipedalism, brain size, and tool use in human ancestors.

Q: How do genetics support the theory of the descent of man?

A: Genetic studies show that humans share a high percentage of DNA with chimpanzees and bonobos, confirming common ancestry and revealing the genetic changes that led to unique human traits.

Q: What role does culture play in human evolution?

A: Culture is a major factor in human evolution, enabling adaptation to diverse environments, the development of language, technology, and social structure, and the transmission of knowledge across generations.

Q: Are there controversies surrounding the descent of man?

A: Yes, some controversies remain, particularly regarding gaps in the fossil record, interpretation of genetic data, and the mechanisms of evolutionary change, but ongoing research continues to address these issues.

Q: How has the descent of man influenced modern science?

A: The descent of man has shaped fields such as anthropology, genetics, psychology, and medicine, providing a framework for understanding human diversity, health, and behavior.

Q: What are some unique traits that distinguish humans from other primates?

A: Unique human traits include bipedal walking, advanced language and symbolic thought, complex tool use, and highly developed social and cultural behaviors.

Q: How does the descent of man relate to ethical discussions?

A: Understanding the descent of man encourages respect for the shared ancestry of all humans, promotes inclusive attitudes, and informs debates about equality, human rights, and diversity.

Q: What are future directions for research on the descent of man?

A: Future research will focus on new fossil discoveries, advances in genetics, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the integration of technology to deepen our understanding of human evolution.

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The Descent of Man: Unraveling Darwin's Enduring Legacy

Introduction:

Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, published in 1871, wasn't just a sequel to *On the Origin of Species*. It was a bold, groundbreaking exploration of human evolution, tackling sensitive issues of race, gender, and morality head-on, sparking debates that continue to this day. This post delves into the core arguments of *The Descent of Man*, examining its impact on scientific thought, its controversies, and its enduring relevance in understanding our place in the natural world. We'll explore Darwin's key concepts, analyze the criticisms leveled against the work, and consider its lasting legacy in fields ranging from anthropology to evolutionary psychology.

H2: Darwin's Central Arguments: Bridging the Gap Between Humans and Animals

Darwin's primary assertion in *The Descent of Man* was straightforward yet revolutionary: humans, like all other species, evolved through natural selection. He meticulously built his case, arguing that the anatomical similarities between humans and primates, particularly apes, provided undeniable evidence of a shared ancestry. This wasn't simply a matter of physical resemblance; Darwin also pointed to behavioral parallels, highlighting the emotional and cognitive capacities shared across species. He wasn't proposing a linear progression from ape to human, but rather a branching evolutionary tree with humans occupying a specific, evolved niche.

H3: Natural Selection and Sexual Selection: Two Sides of the Evolutionary Coin

Darwin recognized that natural selection, the driving force behind adaptation to environmental pressures, couldn't fully account for the evolution of human characteristics. He introduced the concept of sexual selection, arguing that traits like the peacock's extravagant tail, or even certain human characteristics, evolved not necessarily for survival advantages but for attracting mates. This interplay between natural and sexual selection, he argued, shaped the physical and behavioral traits that define humanity.

H4: The Role of Sexual Selection in Human Evolution

Sexual selection, Darwin believed, played a crucial role in the development of human intelligence, morality, and aesthetic senses. He suggested that the preference for certain traits in mates, driven

by factors like beauty, intelligence, or strength, led to their gradual enhancement over generations. This mechanism, however, was heavily criticized for its potential to reinforce social biases and inequalities.

H2: Controversies and Criticisms: Navigating the Ethical Minefield

The Descent of Man didn't shy away from controversial topics. Darwin's exploration of human racial differences sparked intense debate, particularly as his interpretations were often misused to justify racist ideologies. He attempted to apply evolutionary principles to explain variations in human populations, but his conclusions were far from definitive and frequently misinterpreted. This highlights a critical aspect of scientific work: even groundbreaking theories can be subject to misapplication and abuse.

H3: Addressing the Question of Morality

Another controversial aspect of the book was Darwin's attempt to explain the origins of morality. He argued that altruistic behavior, while seemingly selfless, could be understood through an evolutionary lens: individuals who cooperated and exhibited empathy often enjoyed greater reproductive success. However, this explanation faced considerable opposition from those who viewed morality as fundamentally distinct from evolutionary processes.

H2: The Enduring Legacy: A Continuing Dialogue

Despite the controversies and criticisms, The Descent of Man remains a landmark achievement in scientific history. It solidified the place of humans within the evolutionary framework, opening new avenues of research in fields like anthropology, primatology, and evolutionary psychology. The book's impact is not simply historical; its ideas continue to fuel contemporary discussions about human nature, social behavior, and the very definition of humanity.

H3: Modern Interpretations and Applications

Today, evolutionary biologists refine and expand upon Darwin's original insights. Sophisticated genetic analysis, combined with detailed behavioral studies, has deepened our understanding of human evolution, providing a more nuanced picture than Darwin could have imagined. The book's lasting impact lies in its fundamental shift in perspective: placing humans within the context of the natural world, subject to the same evolutionary forces that shaped all other life forms.

Conclusion:

The Descent of Man is more than just a scientific treatise; it's a testament to the enduring power of scientific inquiry and a continuing exploration of our place in the universe. While some of Darwin's conclusions may seem dated by modern standards, his groundbreaking approach to understanding human origins continues to inspire and challenge us to grapple with the complexities of our evolutionary past and present.

FAQs:

1. How does *The Descent of Man* differ from *On the Origin of Species*? While *On the Origin of Species* focused on the general principles of evolution by natural selection, *The Descent of Man* specifically applied these principles to human evolution, tackling issues of race, morality, and sexual selection.
2. What are the main criticisms of *The Descent of Man*? Criticisms centered on Darwin's handling of racial differences, his explanation of morality, and the potential for misinterpreting his ideas to justify social inequalities.
3. How has *The Descent of Man* influenced modern scientific thought? The book's core argument—that humans evolved through natural selection—has become a foundational principle in numerous fields, particularly anthropology, primatology, and evolutionary psychology.
4. What is sexual selection, and how does it relate to human evolution? Sexual selection is the process by which traits that enhance mating success evolve, even if they don't necessarily improve survival. Darwin argued it played a significant role in shaping human physical and behavioral characteristics.
5. Is Darwin's work still relevant today? Absolutely. While our understanding of evolution has advanced significantly, the fundamental principles outlined in *The Descent of Man* remain central to our understanding of human origins and continue to spark debate and inspire new research.

the descent of man: *The Descent of Man* Grayson Perry, 2016-10-20 'Grayson Perry for King and Queen of England' Caitlin Moran Grayson Perry has been thinking about masculinity - what it is, how it operates, why little boys are thought to be made of slugs and snails - since he was a boy. Now, in this funny and necessary book, he turns round to look at men with a clear eye and ask, what sort of men would make the world a better place, for everyone? What would happen if we rethought the old, macho, outdated version of manhood, and embraced a different idea of what makes a man? Apart from giving up the coronary-inducing stress of always being 'right' and the vast new wardrobe options, the real benefit might be that a newly fitted masculinity will allow men to have better relationships - and that's happiness, right? Grayson Perry admits he's not immune from the stereotypes himself - as the psychoanalysts say, 'if you spot it, you've got it' - and his thoughts on everything from power to physical appearance, from emotions to a brand new Manifesto for Men, are shot through with honesty, tenderness and the belief that, for everyone to benefit, upgrading masculinity has to be something men decide to do themselves. They have nothing to lose but their hang-ups.

the descent of man: The Descent of Man (Diversion Classics) Charles Darwin, 2016-06-28 Considered one of the most significant pieces of his life's work, Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man* forever shaped our understanding of human evolution. Picked apart in 1871 for its controversial content, Darwin's findings explore two essential facets of evolutionary theory: natural selection and sexual selection. Pointing to undeniable anatomical, mental, and social similarities, Darwin asserts not just that all races of humanity share a single origin, but that we share common ancestors with other animals and have evolved in similar ways. Under sexual selection, he argues that females choosing among competing males has determined our differentiating racial characteristics. Though aspects of *Descent* have been met with contention to this day, this book is a must-read for anyone curious about humanity and its origin. Featuring an appendix of discussion questions, this Diversion Classics edition is ideal for use in book groups and classrooms. For more classic titles like this, visit www.diversionbooks.com/ebooks/diversion-classics

the descent of man: A Most Interesting Problem Jeremy DeSilva, 2022-11-29 Leading scholars take stock of Darwin's ideas about human evolution in the light of modern science In 1871,

Charles Darwin published *The Descent of Man*, a companion to *Origin of Species* in which he attempted to explain human evolution, a topic he called the highest and most interesting problem for the naturalist. *A Most Interesting Problem* brings together twelve world-class scholars and science communicators to investigate what Darwin got right—and what he got wrong—about the origin, history, and biological variation of humans. Edited by Jeremy DeSilva and with an introduction by acclaimed Darwin biographer Janet Browne, *A Most Interesting Problem* draws on the latest discoveries in fields such as genetics, paleontology, bioarchaeology, anthropology, and primatology. This compelling and accessible book tackles the very subjects Darwin explores in *Descent*, including the evidence for human evolution, our place in the family tree, the origins of civilization, human races, and sex differences. *A Most Interesting Problem* is a testament to how scientific ideas are tested and how evidence helps to structure our narratives about human origins, showing how some of Darwin's ideas have withstood more than a century of scrutiny while others have not. *A Most Interesting Problem* features contributions by Janet Browne, Jeremy DeSilva, Holly Dunsworth, Agustín Fuentes, Ann Gibbons, Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Brian Hare, John Hawks, Suzana Herculano-Houzel, Kristina Killgrove, Alice Roberts, and Michael J. Ryan.

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the descent of man: The Descent of Man Charles Darwin, 2004-06-29 Applying his controversial theory of evolution to the origins of the human species, Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man* was the culmination of his life's work. In *The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin refused to discuss human evolution, believing the subject too 'surrounded with prejudices'. He had been reworking his notes since the 1830s, but only with trepidation did he finally publish *The Descent of Man* in 1871. The book notoriously put apes in our family tree and made the races one family, diversified by 'sexual selection' - Darwin's provocative theory that female choice among competing males leads to diverging racial characteristics. Named by Sigmund Freud as 'one of the ten most significant books' ever written, Darwin's *Descent of Man* continues to shape the way we think about what it is that makes us uniquely human. In their introduction, James Moore and Adrian Desmond, acclaimed biographers of Charles Darwin, call for a radical re-assessment of the book, arguing that its core ideas on race were fired by Darwin's hatred of slavery. The text is the second and definitive edition and this volume also contains suggestions for further reading, a chronology and biographical sketches of prominent individuals mentioned. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Exploring a surprising range of creative endeavors - the instinct to create gardens; the use of metaphors and irony in speech; or the power of music and song - Wilson proposes a transformational 'Third Enlightenment' in which the blending of science and the humanities will enable us to gain a deeper understanding of the human condition, and how it ultimately originated.

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the descent of man: *Darwin and the Making of Sexual Selection* Evelleen Richards, 2017-04-27 Sexual selection, or the struggle for mates, was of considerable strategic importance to Darwin's theory of evolution as he first outlined it in the *Origin of Species*, and later, in the *Descent of Man*, it took on a much wider role. There, Darwin's exhaustive elaboration of sexual selection throughout the animal kingdom was directed to substantiating his view that human racial and sexual differences, not just physical differences but certain mental and moral differences, had evolved primarily through the action of sexual selection. It was the culmination of a lifetime of intellectual effort and commitment. Yet even though he argued its validity with a great array of critics, sexual selection went into abeyance with Darwin's death, not to be revived until late in the twentieth century, and even today it remains a controversial theory. In unfurling the history of sexual selection, Evelleen Richards brings to vivid life Darwin the man, not the myth, and the social and intellectual roots of his theory building.

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foundation for much contemporary research by arguing that many characteristics of animals have evolved not in response to the selective pressures exerted by their physical and biological environment, but rather to confer an advantage in sexual competition. These two themes are drawn together in two final chapters on the role of sexual selection in humans. In their Introduction, Professors Bonner and May discuss the place of *The Descent* in its own time and relation to current work in biology and other disciplines.

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the descent of man: The Descent of Man Charles Darwin, 2020 *The Descent of Man* - And

selection in relation to sex. Second Edition is an unchanged, high-quality reprint of the original edition of 1888. Hansebooks is editor of the literature on different topic areas such as research and science, travel and expeditions, cooking and nutrition, medicine, and other genres. As a publisher we focus on the preservation of historical literature. Many works of historical writers and scientists are available today as antiques only. Hansebooks newly publishes these books and contributes to the preservation of literature which has become rare and historical knowledge for the future.

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the descent of man: In the Light of Evolution National Academy of Sciences, 2007 The Arthur M. Sackler Colloquia of the National Academy of Sciences address scientific topics of broad

and current interest, cutting across the boundaries of traditional disciplines. Each year, four or five such colloquia are scheduled, typically two days in length and international in scope. Colloquia are organized by a member of the Academy, often with the assistance of an organizing committee, and feature presentations by leading scientists in the field and discussions with a hundred or more researchers with an interest in the topic. Colloquia presentations are recorded and posted on the National Academy of Sciences Sackler colloquia website and published on CD-ROM. These Colloquia are made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Jill Sackler, in memory of her husband, Arthur M. Sackler.

the descent of man: Replacing Darwin Nathaniel T Jeanson, 2017-09-01 If Darwin were to examine the evidence today using modern science, would his conclusions be the same? Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published over 150 years ago, is considered one of history's most influential books and continues to serve as the foundation of thought for evolutionary biology. Since Darwin's time, however, new fields of science have emerged that simply give us better answers to the question of origins. With a Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology from Harvard University, Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson is uniquely qualified to investigate what genetics reveal about origins. The Origins Puzzle Comes Together If the science surrounding origins were a puzzle, Darwin would have had fewer than 15% of the pieces to work with when he developed his theory of evolution. We now have a much greater percentage of the pieces because of modern scientific research. As Dr. Jeanson puts the new pieces together, a whole new picture emerges, giving us a testable, predictive model to explain the origin of species. A New Scientific Revolution Begins Darwin's theory of evolution may be one of science's "sacred cows," but genetics research is proving it wrong. Changing an entrenched narrative, even if it's wrong, is no easy task. Replacing Darwin asks you to consider the possibility that, based on genetics research, our origins are more easily understood in the context of . . . In the beginning . . . God, with the timeline found in the biblical narrative of Genesis. There is a better answer to the origins debate than what we have been led to believe. Let the revolution begin! About the Author Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson is a scientist and a scholar, trained in one of the most prestigious universities in the world. He earned his B.S. in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and his PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University. As an undergraduate, he researched the molecular control of photosynthesis, and his graduate work involved investigating the molecular and physiological control of adult blood stem cells. His findings have been presented at regional and national conferences and have been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Blood*, *Nature*, and *Cell*. Since 2009, he has been actively researching the origin of species, both at the Institute for Creation Research and at Answers in Genesis.

the descent of man: Evidence as to Man's Place in Nature Thomas Henry Huxley, 1863

the descent of man: Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex Charles Darwin, 2004
Excerpt from *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* The nature of the following work will be best understood by a brief account of how it came to be written. During many years I collected notes on the origin or descent of man, without any intention of publishing on the subject, but rather with the determination not to publish, as I thought that I should thus only add to the prejudices against my views. It seemed to me sufficient to indicate, in the first edition of my *Origin of Species*, 'that by this work light would be thrown on the origin of man and his history; and this implies that man must be included with other organic beings in any general conclusion respecting his manner of appearance on this earth. Now the case wears a wholly different aspect. When a naturalist like Carl Vogt ventures to say in his address as President of the National Institution of Geneva *personne, en Europe au moins, n'ose plus soutenir la création indépendante et de toutes pièces, des espèces*, it is manifest that at least a large number of naturalists must admit that species are the modified descendants of other species; and this especially holds good with the younger and rising naturalists. The greater number accept the agency of natural selection; though some urge, whether with justice the future must decide, that I have greatly overrated its importance. Of the older and honoured chiefs in natural science, many unfortunately are still opposed to evolution in

every form. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

the descent of man: The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex Charles Darwin, 2023-02-24 Reprint of the original, first published in 1871. The publishing house Anatiposi publishes historical books as reprints. Due to their age, these books may have missing pages or inferior quality. Our aim is to preserve these books and make them available to the public so that they do not get lost.

the descent of man: *Descent of Man* T.C. Boyle, 1990-07-27 In seventeen slices of life that defy the expected and launch us into the absurd, T.C. Boyle offers his unique view of the world. A primate-center researcher becomes romantically involved with a chimp; a Norse poet overcomes bard-block; collectors compete to snare the ancient Aztec beer can, Quetzacoatl Lite; and Lassie abandons Timmy for a randy coyote. Dark humor, delirious fantasy, and surreal satire come together in this collection that brilliantly expresses just what the evolution of mankind has wrought.

the descent of man: *The Descent* Jeff Long, 1999-11-12 We are not alone. Some call them devils or demons. But they are real. They are down there. And they are waiting for us to find them. In a cave in the Himalayas, a guide discovers a self-mutilated body with a warning: Satan exists. In the Kalahari Desert, a nun unearths evidence of a proto-human species and a deity called Older-than-Old. In Bosnia, something has been feeding upon the dead in a mass grave. So begins mankind's most shocking realization: the underworld is a vast geological labyrinth populated by another race of beings. With all of Hell's precious resources and territories to be won, a global race ensues. Nations, armies, religions, and industries rush to colonize and exploit the subterranean frontier. A scientific expedition is launched westward to explore beneath the Pacific Ocean floor, both to catalog the riches there and to learn how life could develop in the sunless abyss. But in the dark underground, as humanity falls away from them, the scientists and mercenaries find themselves prey not only to the savage creatures, but also to their own treachery, mutiny, and greed. One thing is certain: Miles inside the earth, evil is very much alive.

the descent of man: Darwin Devolves Michael J. Behe, 2019-02-26 The scientist who has been dubbed the "Father of Intelligent Design" and author of the groundbreaking book *Darwin's Black Box* contends that recent scientific discoveries further disprove Darwinism and strengthen the case for an intelligent creator. In his controversial bestseller *Darwin's Black Box*, biochemist Michael Behe challenged Darwin's theory of evolution, arguing that science itself has proven that intelligent design is a better explanation for the origin of life. In *Darwin Devolves*, Behe advances his argument, presenting new research that offers a startling reconsideration of how Darwin's mechanism works, weakening the theory's validity even more. A system of natural selection acting on random mutation, evolution can help make something look and act differently. But evolution never creates something organically. Behe contends that Darwinism actually works by a process of devolution—damaging cells in DNA in order to create something new at the lowest biological levels. This is important, he makes clear, because it shows the Darwinian process cannot explain the creation of life itself. "A process that so easily tears down sophisticated machinery is not one which will build complex, functional systems," he writes. In addition to disputing the methodology of Darwinism and how it conflicts with the concept of creation, Behe reveals that what makes Intelligent Design unique—and right—is that it acknowledges causation. Evolution proposes that organisms living today are descended with modification from organisms that lived in the distant past. But Intelligent Design goes a step further asking, what caused such astounding changes to take place? What is the reason or mechanism for evolution? For Behe, this is what makes Intelligent Design so important.

the descent of man: On Natural Selection Charles Darwin, 2004-09-02 Published amid a

firestorm of controversy in 1859, this is a book that changed the world. Reasoned and well-documented in its arguments, it offers coherent views of natural selection, adaptation, the struggle for existence, survival of the fittest, and other concepts that form the foundation of evolutionary theory.

the descent of man: *Kin* Gary Frank, 2002 Neanderthal man lives among us. Or at least he did until his discovery by the sinister S.I.A. who proceed to ruthlessly exterminate these ancient people in pursuit of their strange and potent technology. Now, one Neanderthal survivor, along with his desperate group of friends, must then try to right the wrongs done to his people and prevent the Neanderthals' power from falling into the hands of evil! One of last years most intriguing series is collected here for the first time with an added six new pages of art and story plus a brand-new cover by artist and KIN creator Gary Frank!

the descent of man: The Philosophy of Human Evolution Michael Ruse, 2012-01-12 Provides a unique discussion of human evolution from a philosophical viewpoint, covering such issues as religion, race and gender.

the descent of man: On the Origin of Species (Annotated) First Edition Charles Darwin, 2020-08-16 This is the first edition of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published on November 24, 1859 in London by John Murray. It is a seminal work in scientific literature and a landmark work in evolutionary biology. It introduced the theory that populations evolve over the course of generations through a process of natural selection. It presented a body of evidence that the diversity of life arose by common descent through a branching pattern of evolution. The starting chapters introduce the theory of natural selection, explaining why certain species thrive, while others decrease in number, how the members of nature are in competition with each other and why organisms tend to vary and change with time. Much of this work is based on experiments and observations seen within domestic animals and plants. The later chapters defend the theory of natural selection against apparent inconsistencies, why geological records are incomplete, why we find species so widespread and how sterility can be inherited when the organisation is unable to reproduce and more. The book is approachable for any audience.

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as *The Origin of Species*. Darwin's theory that species derive from other species by a gradual evolutionary process and that the average level of each species is heightened by the "survival of the fittest" stirred up popular debate to fever pitch. Its acceptance revolutionized the course of science. As Sir Julian Huxley, the noted biologist, points out in his illuminating introduction, the importance of Darwin's contribution to modern scientific knowledge is almost impossible to evaluate: "a truly great book, one which can still be read with profit by professional biologist." Includes an Introduction by Sir Julian Huxley

the descent of man: National Negro Health Week ... , 1934

the descent of man: From So Simple a Beginning Charles Darwin, 2010-08-31 Hailed as superior by Nature, this landmark volume is available in a collectible, boxed edition. Never before have the four great works of Charles Darwin—*Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle* (1845), *The Origin of Species* (1859), *The Descent of Man* (1871), and *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals* (1872)—been collected under one cover. Undertaking this challenging endeavor 123 years after Darwin's death, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Edward O. Wilson has written an introductory essay for the occasion, while providing new, insightful introductions to each of the four volumes and an afterword that examines the fate of evolutionary theory in an era of religious resistance. In addition, Wilson has crafted a creative new index to accompany these four texts, which links the nineteenth-century, Darwinian evolutionary concepts to contemporary biological thought. Beautifully slipcased, and including restored versions of the original illustrations, *From So Simple a Beginning* turns our attention to the astounding power of the natural creative process and the magnificence of its products.

the descent of man: The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex Charles Darwin, 2003-02-21

the descent of man: *Darwin's Sacred Cause* Adrian Desmond, James Moore, 2014-11-11 An "arresting" and deeply personal portrait that "confront[s] the touchy subject of Darwin and race head on" (*The New York Times Book Review*). It's difficult to overstate the profound risk Charles Darwin took in publishing his theory of evolution. How and why would a quiet, respectable gentleman, a pillar of his parish, produce one of the most radical ideas in the history of human thought? Drawing on a wealth of manuscripts, family letters, diaries, and even ships' logs, Adrian Desmond and James Moore have restored the moral missing link to the story of Charles Darwin's historic achievement. Nineteenth-century apologists for slavery argued that blacks and whites had originated as separate species, with whites created superior. Darwin, however, believed that the races belonged to the same human family. Slavery was therefore a sin, and abolishing it became Darwin's sacred cause. His theory of evolution gave a common ancestor not only to all races, but to all biological life. This "masterful" book restores the missing moral core of Darwin's evolutionary universe, providing a completely new account of how he came to his shattering theories about human origins (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review). It will revolutionize your view of the great naturalist. "An illuminating new book." —*Smithsonian* "Compelling . . . Desmond and Moore aptly describe Darwin's interaction with some of the thorniest social and political issues of the day." —*Wired* "This exciting book is sure to create a stir." —Janet Browne, Aramont Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University, and author of *Charles Darwin: Voyaging*

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