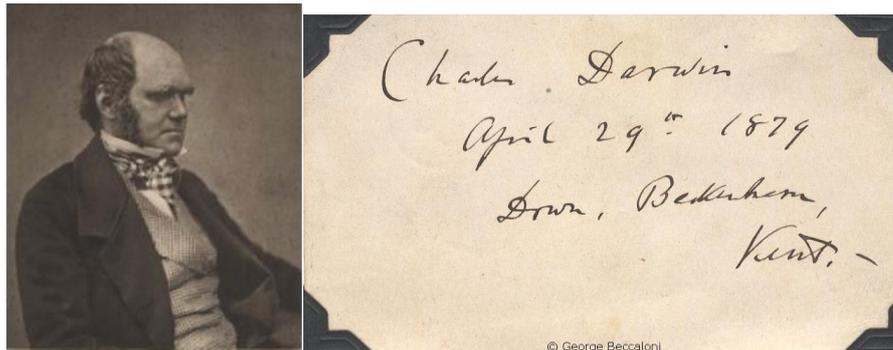


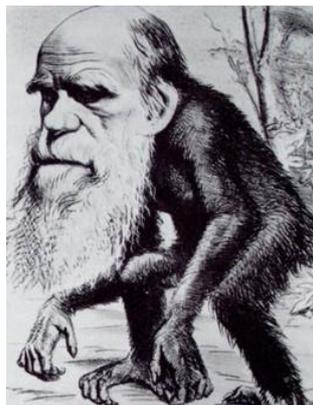
Don't shoot the messenger! - Darwin



An allegory on

Darwin's Theory of Evolution and the impact on Religion Believe

By Nico Luwes (Picture below!)



The writing of this drama-text was sponsored by the National Arts Council of South Africa. My warmest gratitude to the CEO of the NAC and the team at the NAC. Peter Tshabalala, this one is for you! Hope you have fun! Please note that this is a first ruff WORKING rehearsal text and changes, corrections and adaptations will be made after performance when I (hopefully) will have the time. 20/1/2009

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Time

Time is not fixed in any particular historical period as time is scientific magic of great uncertainty.

Set

Space is nowhere in particular – as we don't know for sure if we are alive or not. Neither do we know what Heaven looks like, or whether the characters in the play did make it there! So we put the action in limbo somewhere. Therefore we see an empty stage. Things to sit on, is brought onstage as is needed. As the audience enters, we see Google space projections on screen as on http://hubblesite.org/gallery/movie_theater/hst2005/hst2005_320x240_mpg. Images from Hubble telescope flowing from the furthers images down to close-up on earth and into organisms)

Characters

Fool and his Puppet

Fool's assistants: The Scribe and The Judge

Charles Darwin

Ancienti Academicus

ReliGious

InCense

SukiJakkie (her slave)

AfricaNus

Aboriginal

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As the lights dim in the auditorium the moving image on the screen is that of far-out space entering into a black hole. On the sides against the cyclorama the two figures of Fools assistants: The Scribe and the Judge are sitting asleep. The Scribe has a big book at his feet, an ink bottle and a feathered pen. He is dressed in 18th Century black coat and a top hat. The Judge is also dressed like that and has a law hammer an block, and a box filled with stuff that will later be revealed next not him. After a few seconds a box is moving by itself from the dark backstage forward to back centre. There is a knocking from inside. No reaction from the assistants. A more desperate knock is heard. The two assistants move a bit to a more comfortable sleeping position. A third loud series of knocking is heard from the box. Silence!

Fool *(screaming from inside box while giving a knock before every word):* I hear a knocking, damn it!

(The assistants jump up, not knowing where the sound came from. They look around flabbergasted)

Fool: Are you deaf or something? *(He knocks again)*

(The assistants move slowly over to the box and jumps back as a knock startles them)

Fool *(singing from inside):* Please release me and let me go.... *(Shouts)* Open up the bloody box! Release the catch!

Scribe *(moves closer, releases the catch and steps back to a safe distance):* I've done it!

Judge *(sings):* That was bad, bad thing!

The lid is kicked open by Fool. We don't see him. Scribe and Judge jumped back so that they hide in wings with only their heads visible. From the box appears a small black Puppet bat on a wire string. Fool makes a screeching sound as the bat appears. Then a small white angle Puppet with feathered wings on a string appears while Fool hums a heavenly tune. The two Puppets look at each other and the bat chases the Angle back into box. The makes screeching sound and call for help as a big fight seems to be going on between the two Puppets inside the box. Suddenly a medieval hand Puppet similar to that of the King's Royal Fool appears out of the box with its back toward the audience. His costume is colourful and he has 3 small bells on his pointed hat.

Puppet *(screams in a thin voice – very commanding):* Stop it! I say stop it, you Fools! *(The noise subsides)* That's better... much better! *(He looks at the Scribe and the Judge)* You can come closer now! All is fine! Well for the time being, I hope.

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(The Scribe and Judge moves slowly closer to look at the box. The Puppet is slowly disappearing into the box, playing a little hide-and-seek game. As they come closer Fool suddenly sits upright in the box. He is also dressed in a medieval Royal Fool's colourful costume with painted face. He looks like Scaramouch!)

Fool: Voila! *(sings)* Scaramouch! Scaramouch! Can I do the fandango!

Judge and Scribe: **You Fool!**

Puppet *(pops up)*: Yes! Yes! Yes! Correctisimo! He Fool! You Scribe and you Judge!

Fool *(jumps from the box with his Puppet and shake their hands)*: Please to meet you!

Puppet: And so say I!

Judge: You are late, you Fool!

Scribe: We've been waiting for ages!

Fool: I'm sorry...

Scribe: Where were you all the time?

Judge: You were needed and called!

Fool: Why do they also pick on me?

Puppet *(mocking)*: Because you are a Fool!

Scribe: Where were you?

Fool *(strike his sad pose)*: I was sleeping...

Puppet: He lies...

Fool: Shut up!

Judge: For the very last time... Where were you?

Fool: I was dead...

Judge: Let me Judge... *(Touches Fool)* You are not dead... You're alive!

Scribe: I write this down...

Puppet: It's no use

Scribe: Why?

Puppet *(looks around him)*: Because all this is a lie! Nothing here is true! Not me, not you, not even you! It is a stage...

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Judge: I'll judge that!

Puppet: You don't need to! Nothing on a stage is really true!

Fool: And we're all dead! What a clever dead Puppet you are...

Judge: Stop playing the Fool. We're here on serious business!

Scribe: Yes... serious business! You were called!

Fool: To do what?

Judge: To find the truth!

Fool: The truth? Why always pick on me?

Puppet: Because you can speculate. You can ask simple questions that make the King think!

Fool: The King can kill me if he doesn't like my speculations! Bang there goes my head! My life!

Puppet: He can't

Fool: Why not?

Puppet: Because you are a Fool... You can say you made a joke!

Judge: Exactly.

Scribe: That's why you were called!

Fool (*very proud*): Fantastic! Fool must find the truth! Bring me my throne. For once I am the king in this place! And find something for you too. Finding the truth may take a bit of time! (*He moves back and removes the lid of the box that will serve as a plank to be put on the throne to works as a 'table'*).

Scribe: As last some action! (*They move to fetch the throne*) I'll need a writing table.

Judge: And I a podium! I'm a judge am I not!

Fool: Great! On what must I find the truth?

Judge and **Scribe:** On the Origin of Man.

Shocked silence

Fool: WHAT?

Scribe: You've heard it right....

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Judge: The truth on the Origin on Man (*Judge and Scribe off to get the throne*)

Puppet: O shit!

Fool (*almost in tears to audience and Puppet*): The Origin of Man? Did you hear that! I can't! I'll get killed. They'll poison me! (*He dies very dramatically and lands outstretched on the floor*) AAAAAARCH!!!

Puppet: No they won't poison you!

Fool (*sits up very calmly*): You right. (*In tears*) They'll torture me with small knives and boiling oil. (*He shudders and sinks back to the ground as if boiling in pot*) AAAAAA!!!! Gloeb! (*He's dead*)

Puppet: No they won't!

Fool (*jumps up*): You're right! They'll burn me on the stakes! (*His arms become flames*) AAARCH!!!! Water! Water!

(*Judge and Scribe comes on and put the throne at the back in position*)

Scribe: Shall I make a note that he is crazy?

Judge: Yes. Hey you! Stop making such a racket! (*They go off to fetch the rest of the props*)

Fool: They'll stretch me to pieces! O I can only see it! (*He jerks from side to side as the following pictures of torture instruments appear on the screen and he becomes more hysterical*) The rack!



The Iron Maiden!

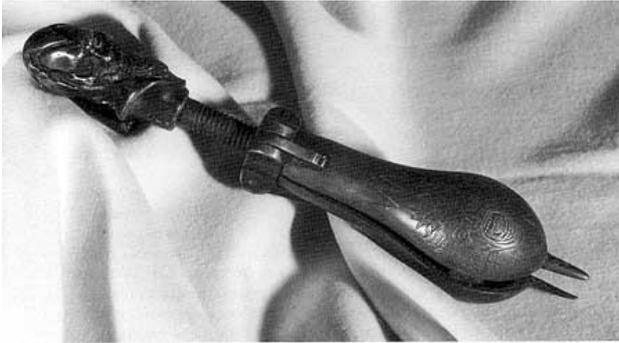


The Saw!

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The Inside Stretcher!



The fork!



The mask of infamy

The Head Crusher!





I'll be burned at the Stake



The Guillotine

In the meantime Scribe has put his writing table and chair in place and the Judge has his Law podium in place.

Judge *(hits the block with his hammer):* Shut up!

Fool *(falls down):* I'm shot!

Judge: You're not shot!

Fool: Sure shit I'm shot!

Puppet: You're not shot!

Fool: You're sure I'm not shot!

Puppet: No Sir! Not shot!

Judge: Shut up! Can we proceed please!

Puppet: Get up! Take the throne...

Fool *(gets up and goes to the throne):* I'm not dead? *(He sits)* I'm must be living in a Fools paradise?

Scribe: Shall I call the first witness on The Origin of Man?

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Judge: Call in Mr Charles Darwin please! I mean he wrote the book!

Scribe (*goes to the side-stage*): Mr Charles Darwin! (*No reaction*) Mr Charles Darwin please!!! (*He goes offstage to look for Darwin*)

Puppet (*whispers to Fool*): Maybe he's not available?

Fool: What do you mean? We're all dead. We can call anyone to... reappear... This is a stage remember. It's all illusion!

Puppet: No I mean... Maybe he's on the toilet?

Fool: Are you crazy? On the toilet at such an important Inquest?

Puppet (*whispers*): No, I just mean it was a well-known fact that he had a very weak stomach.

Judge (*hammers the block*): What's keeping us? Scribe!

Scribe (*reappears and goes to his table*): He's coming. He was on the...

Puppet: see! What did I tell you?

Judge: You two shut up!

Scribe (*sees Darwin coming in the wings and gets up*): Mr Charles Darwin!

(Everybody gets up while the Puppet imitates a trumpet fanfare. Darwin walks in and looks a round – little bit lost. He is dressed as the real Darwin in 19th Century clothes and long jacket. He carries a walking cane stick and wears a hat)

Darwin: Sorry I'm late. I'm physically not in a very good condition. Something I picked up on the Beagle.

Fool (*whispers to Puppet*): That comes from collecting beetles.

Puppet: The Beagle, you Fool – a ship!

Judge: Welcome Mr Darwin! We appreciate your time! Scribe! Get Mr. Darwin a chair and take his hat. (*Scribe goes off stage to get the chair*)

Darwin: I'm actually a very private person... Except for my few friends. To name but a few, Leyl, Huxley, Hooker...

Fool (*whispers to Puppet*): Darwin actually made friends with a hooker?

Puppet (*whispers back*): Shut up! Hooker his admirer!

Fool: That sounds even worse!

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Darwin: But now that I'm dead I seem to have more time... I actually just had a very interesting discussion with Sir John Herschel and a few feet away from me, Sir Isaac Newton also joined in the conversation.

Judge: Sorry we interrupted such an important conversation.

Darwin: My dear Judge, don't be so polite. Westminster Abbey is just huff and a puff away and as they say, we have time on our hands... Why was I called? (*He sees Fool and the Puppet*) As a scientist I did take my time and research quite seriously. Who is this Fool?

Fool: I'm precisely what you say - Fool. It's no secret the under this skin and costume of Fool you'll find a very serious Fool, or what do I say my little Puppet?

Puppet : No-one can Fool a Fool... Serious! If the King doesn't listen to Fool the King's a Fool!

Fool: Speak o Wise one while you still have your teeth!

Darwin (*amused*): I'm not a man without a sense of humour. But while you are so wise, what wisdom do you need from me? Who is this so called King of yours?

Fool: The king is Truth! I want to know the truth!

Darwin: Then you're in my league, dear Fool. That's what I searched for all my life! And I've been Fooled by many men, scientists and men of other fields of interest. but not by all.

Judge (*at Scribe who came in with a chair*): Thank you Scribe! Please make yourself comfortable, Mr. Darwin. The proceedings are as follows. Fool will ask you questions and you may answer them to the best of your opinion. The Scribe will make notes and I will Judge the outcome. Are you ready Scribe?

Scribe: Comfy and ready! (*He stands up humbly*) I please request Mr. Darwin not to hurry as my handwriting is almost as bad as yours in your notes on the trip while on the Beagle. I really tried to prepare for this meeting, but could not decipher anything...

Darwin: I was bloody seasick all the time! Have you tried to work your specimens, sketch and write on a ship the size of the Beagle in those stormy seas?

Judge (*hammers the block*): Please! Let us have order! Let Fool proceed!

Fool: If the Judge can just allow me let connect to my automatic info source called www.onedaywe'llallknoweverything.com! (*He gets a funny electronic looking thing on the table and switches it on. Some funny sounds and the VOICE speaks*)

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Voice: Hi Buddy! You're... connected! One small step for mankind...

Fool: Rewind a bit – you're on the Moon now. (*Rewinding sound and some voice at fast speed*)

Fool: Thanks Bud! (*He looks at the audience*) Don't worry its wireless. Ok Joe, let flow the info! (*He listens to the high pitched sound for a few seconds*) Right! Got you!

Scribe: That was quick!

Fool: That's what they all think! Now I got the info, but must still create a concept, select and give structure! If got to organise! It's almost as difficult as writing a play about a field of study you know nothing about!

Puppet: Shut up... you're getting paid!

Fool: You're so right!

Judge: Come on. Back to business!

Fool (*very importantly*): Now please Mr Darwin. There is a lot of gossip going around here in Limbo, and as I hear via the grapevine – or is it now the 'Spirit-vine' that you rocked the boat a bit after your travels on the Beagle. My info pal Joe, tells me that after your extended trip you worked for years on your theory on the origin of species and your Evolution theory. But you were not alone. In 1856 you were notified by a friend that the naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace had written a paper on species that echoed many of your beliefs. You were then prompted to hurry to publish a paper in order to get recognition for your ideas before the world passed you by. Is that correct?

Darwin: That's how it happened yes.

Fool: So you began to work on what would become your most famous book, *The Origin of Species*.

Darwin: Yes.

Fool: Did you correspond with Wallace while you worked on you book?

Darwin: Yes, we eventually co-published two scientific papers in 1858 titled *On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection*. Sadly this publication was not ground breaking and received no special reception.

Judge: Why not?

Darwin: It did not clearly differ from the other ideas floating around on evolution during those years.

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Fool: But in 1859 you published *On the Origin of Species*. The big spanner in the wheel!

Scribe: I'll take down the full title.

Darwin: *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.*

Scribe: Thank you.

Fool: That book then became an international phenomenon. So, Mr Darwin! Where did it all start?

Darwin: In 1831, I had been wandering about North Wales on a geological tour with Professor Sedgwick. When I arrived home on Monday 29th August, my sisters informed me of the letters from Professor Henslowe and Mr Peacock offering to me the place in the Beagle. I immediately said I would go; but the next morning, finding my dear Father so much averse to the whole plan, I wrote to Mr Peacock to refuse his offer.

Fool: Your Dadio probably thought you were going to spend another five years loafing around like during your Varsity days!

Judge: **Fool** don't become personal.

Scribe: Do I need to take down the dates?

Judge: Not necessary. I want to get to the IDEA! Proceed!

Darwin: On the last day of August I went to Maer. I found every member of the family so strongly on my side. So I decided to make another effort.

Fool: So back to Dr. Daddy Darwin. (*Hopping his fingers over the table*) Doedeldy, doodledy doem!

Judge: Stop interrupting!

Darwin: That evening I drew up a list of my Fathers objections, to which Uncle Jos wrote his opinion and answer.

Fool: Clever! Uncle Jos maybe just wanted to get rid of you for a few years. You were ogling his daughter at that time didn't you?

Darwin: No... She was quite young at that stage I...

Fool: Do I spy I little blush there, Mr Darwin?

Judge (*hammers block*): Can we have some respect here, please! Proceed!

Don't shoot the messenger - Darwin

Darwin: We sent the letter off to Shrewsbury early the next morning and I went out shooting.

Fool: According to my mind and trying to understand your theory on evolution, you shoot your own dear brothers and sisters in the animal world! Naughty!

Judge: Just try to ignore him.

Darwin: About 10 o'clock Uncle Jos sent me a message that said to join him on his way to Shrewsbury to face my father.

Fool: Could Uncle Jossie joggle Dr. Daddy Darwin's mind?

Darwin: In fact, yes. All things were settled. My dear Father most kindly gave his consent.

Fool: So Uncle Jossie did indeed joggle Daddy Darwin's mind!

Darwin: I guess so... I was to go on the Beagle on my road to discover brand new scientific facts.

Fool (*ecstatically*): That would change the world!

Darwin: Well... that's where it all started.

(Suddenly a man in dressed in the robe of a Greek Philosopher comes thought the audience from the back of the auditorium. It is Anciinti Academicus in person – complete with scroll!)

Anciinti Academicus: You're wrong! It started right here!

Judge (*hammers the block*): What the heck is going on?

Anciinti Academicus (*coming to the stage*): As I said, I it started right here! With us! Many, many years ago! Not with Mr. Darwin!

Fool (*starts to laugh*): Welcome to the madhouse of Fools!

Puppet: Switch on the lights! Switch on the lights!

(Auditorium lights are dimmed on and Fool rushes forward to the edge of the stage helping Anciinti Academicus on to the stage)

Fool: Welcome, welcome, welcome! Are you from down there? (*Pointing down*)

Anciinti Academicus (*on stage pointing up*): No. Up There! I'm here much longer that Mr. Darwin:

Judge: I won't allow that creature on my stage! Go away.

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Fool: Overruled! I can invite anyone as witness to my Fool's paradise! Overruled!
(*Ancienti Academicus is now firmly on stage. Fool gesturing in the direction of the audience in the Auditorium*) Welcome home from that boring world of Reality! Here you are where all good Greeks should be – On the stage! How old lky?

Judge: Who?

Fool: Old Aeschylus, Sophocles still a Senator? And that naughty Euripides – what's he up to nowadays?

Ancienti Academicus: They're up there enjoying some heavenly Ouzo!

Judge: If I may interrupt! Who are you and where are you from?

Ancienti Academicus: Up there... Helios! Rhodos!

Judge: Yes, Yes, yes! Helio's to you yourself! Answer the question! Who are you and where are you from?

Ancienti Academicus: Rhodos! I come from my grave on the ancient Greek island Rhodos! I say Helios because that is where the sun always shines and wisdom never fails.

Fool: Wonderful! Why did you come here? To bring some light?

Script: Can I have your full names please?

Ancienti Academicus: Ancienti Academicus

Scribe: How do you spell that?

Puppet: Easy! Like as in "ancient academic" with an "i" and an "us". Ancienti Academicus!

Judge: You've been asked a question!

Ancienti Academicus: And I answered that. My name is Ancienti Academicus!

Judge: No. Fool here wanted to know why you're here.

Puppet: Because his not there! (*Pointing to the audience*).

Fool (*slaps Puppet*): Are you all-there?

Ancienti Academicus: I'm here and... (*taps his own head*) I'm all-there! (*He strikes a Greek pose*) I represent Helios, the ancient God of the sun and all the wisdom of the ancient academic sons of the whole Greek scientific history.

Judge: Are you sure?

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Ancienti Academicus: Yes

Scribe (*hesitantly*): But aren't you supposed to be a handsome god, Helios?
Crowned with the shining aureole of the sun?

Ancienti Academicus: So what?

Scribe: You're bald!

Ancienti Academicus: Bald! So what! I also represent Icarus.

Judge: Who?

Ancienti Academicus: Icarus! Who flew too close to the sun. He got his hair burned off, his wax wings melted and plunk right down into the Aegean Sea and drowned. Sizzling dead fish all around him.

Judge: For the sake of a dead fish! What has all this got to do with our investigation on Evolution?

Ancienti Academicus: It explains why I'm bald! Helios quite is hot you know!

And furthermore it serves as a warning to Mr Darwin here that Icarus's famous inventor father, Daedalus who made his wax wings, didn't think of the danger of new scientific inventions or theories! You might get burnt, Darwin!

Darwin: What for? I never wrote anything in my life before I was 100% sure of the possible result.

Fool: Hey Mr. Academicus Magnificus Greekos! Leave Mr. Darwin alone.

Scribe: Yes... Are you not supposed to drive the chariot of the sun across the sky each day? You should go and be on your way...

Judge (*waves*): Yes. Goodbyos! Theerios!

Ancienti Academicus: Norremoeros! I stayos! I will proof to you that Mr Darwin there did NOT invent new theories on Evolution first!

Judge: What?

Ancienti Academicus: We Greeks did it ages ago! I will throw Helios... I mean light on that fact. I stayos, okeos?

Puppet: Helios, goodbyos, stayos, okeos? It's all Greek to me... I'm very hungry and I want to sleep. (*Fool puts him down on his 'table' to sleep*)

Fool: *Puts the Puppet down*): Ok doedos...

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Scribe: I have a bit of difficulty spelling that... You know ... Norremoeros? Should it be in Greek Cyrillic script?

Judge: Just forget it!

Ancienti Academicus: May I stay! OK?

Fool: Yes. I say stay!

Judge: If Mr Darwin here agrees that you may stay, you may stay! *(He takes a bottle of Mainstay from his bag and pours himself one)* Mind if I pour myself a small Mainstay. Well Mr. Darwin. May he stay?

Darwin: With pleasure! I love academic challenges. *(With a superior air)* I was not the first! Really!

Fool: Fine! Mr Representicus Ancienti Academicus! *(Mime drum roll and cymbal. Sound is heard)* The fight is on!

Judge: In our investigation we will allow you to say your say, Ok? Scribe, go find our honoured guest a rock or something to sit on. *(Scribe goes of and later brings a rock on which Ancienti Academicus will sit down, striking the pose of Rodin's "The Thinker")*

Fool: Speak, oh Ancient One.

Ancienti Academicus: Right Mr. Darwin! I will skip the Ionians like Thales, Aniximander, Anaximenes, Heracltus of Ephesus and Pythagoras from 650 to 600 YEARS before Christ was born.

Scribe: Thank you! Pythagoras was a bit of a problem for me as well...

Darwin: To be quite honest... for me as well – at school I mean.

Ancienti Academicus: Mr. Darwin will not be much interested in the Eleatic school Of Xenphanes, Zeno and Parminides;

Darwin: Definitely not.

Puppet: *(awake)*: Did somebody say Parmesan? Pizza? Parmasan?

Fool: No! Go back to bed and sleep! Doedoe!

Puppet: Ok...

Judge: My dear Ancienti Academicus! If Mr. Darwin's theory is going to be challenged, why not defend you ancient theory?

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Ancienti Academicus: That's what I intended to do! The question was *The Origen of Man* was it not? Evolution? How the world was created. A scientific inquiry into Creation!

Scribe: That's how I got it

Ancienti Academicus: Well... we ancient Greeks thought about this. We used both native technology and inquiry on a large body of observations, like Mr Darwin here. Like his theory, our theories gradually also gleaned from our old neighbours in Egypt and Babylonia. Like our atheist her, Mr Darwin...

Fool: Oopsy!

Darwin (*jumps up*): I object! I never said that I'm a nonbeliever! I only questioned...

(**Fool** gets a floret rapier from the box to defend himself)

Judge (*hammers block*): Objection sustained! We'll deal with that later! Proceed!

Ancienti Academicus: As you wish. Shall I put it this way, we, like Mr. Darwin, gradually moved from a system of gods and divine powers to order the world to a system of elements, mathematics, and physical laws. Old ideas were adapted to fit into a less supernatural to a hyper-rational universe. We discovered that the sun, moon and stars followed certain rhythms in step with the seasons.

Fool: Everybody knows that! Ask any farmer! Any rainmaker.

Ancienti Academicus: Yes but then we made the leap of thought to postulate that some conscious set of rules must be dictating these movements and seasonal changes, which, for society, were a matter of life or starvation.

Fool: There's my farmer!

Ancienti Academicus: But Who or What could be causing these all-important changes to come about?

Judge: Don't jump the gun! That's what we will want to know at the end of this investigation!

Ancienti Academicus: Well that's the basic question! Certainly nothing on earth, no beast or human, had the power.

Fool: True!

Ancienti Academicus: Thus gods were born.

Darwin: But that's just logical thought! Ideas! Ideas of God. How can we OBSERVE this fact?

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Fool (*stabs with rapier*): Touché!

Judge: Make a note of that Scribe. Proceed. Where do they live - these gods?

Ancienti Academicus: For Homer, heaven is a solid inverted bowl – the *sideron ouranon* straddling the earth, with fiery, gleaming ether above the cloud-bearing air.

Fool: Wake up my little Puppet. Here's a nice fairy tale for you! (*He picks up the Puppet and mimes with it like a child listening to a story. Sings*) Something's in the air...

Ancienti Academicus: Homer mentions the movements of the sun, the moon, and many stars of heaven by name. Hades is on the underside of the earth and in darkness.

Puppet" I'm scared.

Ancienti Academicus: Unlit by the sun, therefore, the sun, and by extension, other heavenly bodies must sink only to the level of Ocean, which is conceived as a river circling the earth's edge. From it the Sun must also rise.

Fool: I don't want to sound Foolish, but how on earth –or under the earth if you will pardon me. Does the sun get back to the eastern bank of Ocean?

Puppet: Maybe a great snake swallows it like the Egyptian's believed and whoops It comes out the other end the next morning!

Ancienti Academicus: I will consult with Homer again, maybe he is more informed.. Mr. Darwin here consulted farmers on the theories of heritage and the practical implications on evolution, not right?

Darwin: Yes, farmers. That was one of the first things that puzzled me. Simple farmers knew that the best qualities of an animal, if improved through selective breeding could result in the required effect, namely survival in changing circumstances!

Puppet: Please come back to the story! What about the stars?

Ancienti Academicus: You're right Puppet! Let's take Hesiod His works on gods and on agriculture and animal-herding are more closely connected to the practical application of astronomy. He noticed that the sun migrates southwards in winter!

Puppet (whispers to Fool): Ask him what happens with night!

Ancienti Academicus: I heard that! Night is a substance welling up from under the earth, as if it were a dark flowing mist.

Fool: It's all so... mystical! Who's right?

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Judge: Order please!

Darwin: Observation must lead to facts and theory! Arguments and proof!

Ancienti Academicus: I fully agree. Like your London based Scientific Society Members disagreed on theories, so did we Greeks! Orpheus developed his own ideas on gods and the creation of the universe.

Puppet: Tell us. Tell us!

Ancienti Academicus: You'll like this, little Puppet! A primeval egg was birthed by the early gods, and the upper half of its broken shell became heaven's vault.

Fool: What came first - the god or the primeval egg?

Judge: Overruled!

Fool: Why?

Judge: Because I say so! (*He hammers the block*) So you Greeks also differed on theories?

Ancienti Academicus: Yes, we did. When sea-faring started, the Ionian navigators of the sea began to develop new ideas about the sky they steered by. The idea became clear that the universe might run, not only by the whim of gods, but by physical, mechanical rules and principles that might, through study, be understood and predicted.

Darwin: Thank you! That's what drove my inquest into the nature of things! I must state that Nature can be understood if observed and studied extremely well.

Fool (*imitates Darwin's voice*) And, I must state that science is a heresy if they want to predict physical, mechanical rules and principles as they can only work with facts that worked in the past. That's all they know!

Ancienti Academicus: That's not what Einstein said last night at the Heavenly Scientific function commemorating his special theory of relativity. Even last night, he was still trying to convince some of our older ancient colleagues that Time is not constant and neither Weight or Mass.

Judge and Darwin: Come again?

Scribe: Should I make a note of this?

Ancienti Academicus: Old Einstein argues that when moving at high speeds, Time, Weight and Mass get compressed. Only the speed of light remains the same. That happens because, said Einstein, energy is equal to mass times the speed of light squared, or $E = mc^2$.

Fool: Whoa! This is explosive news!

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Ancienti Academicus: Exactly!

Fool (*with devise again on his head*) Let me check this out! (*He listens to voice*)
What? energy is equal to mass times the speed of light squared, or $E = mc^2$.
The formula $E = mc^2$ was the key to the atomic bomb. Whoa!

(Projection of atomic bomb explosion. Characters fall off chairs in slow motion and automatically return to normal as if nothing has happened as lights comes back to normal)

Ancienti Academicus: But for the sake of my argument with Mr Darwin, Thales of Miletus of 585 years before the birth of Christ believed that the earth was flat and water-borne, and listen closely Mr Darwin - that there must have been some first substance out of which the world arose, which he guesses was water!

Darwin (*jumps up*): Water? Says who?

Ancienti Academicus (*shows him the scroll*): Says who? So says Aristotle with reference to his work Aristotle. Met. 983b 6)[7]. Happy? So where does your idea come from that all simple life forms originated from a watery substance and through evolution developed to higher forms like the baboon and Man?

Fool: O dear! Who's the baboon here?

Judge: What's your point, Ancienti Academicus?

Ancienti Academicus (*strictly*): Don't tell me you didn't read all this in the Classics at school Mr. Darwin!

Darwin: Nonsense! School was a total waste for me! I stated that in my letters! I hated school and was a bad student – a slow learner and the classics were forced onto us. I can't remember a thing from the classics!

Ancienti Academicus: O really?

Fool: O, dear! There's nothing new in the world hey?

Judge (*strictly*): Make a note of that Scribe! Mr Darwin was exposed to the classics!

(Suddenly a vacuum cleaner is started offstage and a black woman cleaner pushes the roaring onto the stage. She is dressed in traditional dress. Everybody stares at her in amazement)

Judge: Hey! Hey you! Africa Nus!

Africa Nus (*switches off the vacuum cleaner*): Yes?

Judge: Africa Nus! What do you think you're doing?

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Africa Nus: Heh?

Judge: I said what do you think you're doing?

Africa Nus: Have you got ears?

Judge: Heh?

Africa Nus: Have you got eyes?

Judge: HEH?

Africa Nus: I'm cleaning.

Judge: Cleaning? Africa Nus! You can't do it here! Not now! Stop it right now!

Africa Nus: I can't. The spirits on the lower level are complaining of dust drifting from this level. *(She comes to the edge of the stage and looks down)* What are you dusting up here?

Judge: Africa Nus! I tell you to stop! Why must you always kick up dust! I'm now in control on this level. Stop!

Africa Nus: Commands, commands, commands! When will it ever stop? *(Shouting down to a 'lower level')* Hooeee! Hey Wena's! They want me to stop cleaning up here.

Fool *(comes to her):* It's all fine! Africa Nus! Just get a broom or something. Come and clean up the place, but no humming and singing and so on OK? Come! *(He leads her to the side stage)* Go get a broom!

Africa Nus: Eish! A Broom! I thought I was at least promoted to a vacuum cleaner on this level! *(Off)* Eish!

Fool: So, Gentlemen! Let's proceed!

Judge: Where were we?

Scribe: Mr Darwin said that he didn't like the classics at school.

Darwin: I said they were forced down on us.

Judge: So I suspect you did read the classics then. What do you say to that Mr Darwin?

Darwin *(very calmly):* I do remember some nonsense that we had to read in the classics. It made me laugh! It was ridiculous! Therefore I never toughed any classic Greek book in my life again!

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(Africa Nus reappears at the back with the broom, takes a few sweeps and she becomes interested in the happenings on stage. Very soon she will turn the broom upside down and lean with her arms over it to listen in amazement to the arguments)

Ancienti Academicus: You're challenging Greek Philosophy?

Darwin: Yes I do! Who was this guy?. Anaximander or Salamander, as we called him of Miletus or Mastitis. We used to make jokes about them and made simple rhymes to remember the names of the philosophers and islands for the exams. This "Salamander" actually preached that the earth was a cylinder or something like that, and that heavenly bodies are wheels of fire, enclosed by air! Their light was only a part of them, described by this Salamander of Mastitis as an axle, pipe, vent, or bellows-nozzle – wait hang on - through which fire jets!

Fool: Fire jets? I love this! This sounds just like Guy Fawkes!

Darwin: Then listen to this! Eclipses and lunar variations are accordingly caused by these vents opening or partially closing.

Fool: Vents opening or partially closing? I know how! Let me show you *(He lets out the sound of big wind ending in a large fart with his mouth):*
SSSHHHHPRRRRRT!!! *(Everybody except Judge and Ancienti Academicus bursts out laughing)*

Judge: Order! Order! I will not tolerate any funny ffff... I will not find funny farts funny in this place! I mean place! Understood! So you thought the classics funny Mr. Darwin?

Darwin: Yes. And we had to study that stuff! These were all simple IDEAS in an attempt to explain the universe in physical terms. Where was the proof? That's what I wanted! This same Salamander suggested a process of separation and "equilibrium", with the earth suspended in the middle and the various heavenly bodies "balanced" all around it by some unseen rule. I wanted that rule! All that I could credit the Greeks for, was that at least they were beginning to be aware of gravity! Through evolution to and thus becoming a more intelligent Greek, Archimedes shouted "Eureka!" when he stepped into a bath and noticed that the water level rose. Only then he suddenly understood that the volume of water displaced must be equal to the volume of the part of his body he had submerged. That was the scientific mind I was looking for! Not old Salamander's nonsense! He still needed to put two and two together and recognize it explicitly like I did with my theory on the Origin of Man! For you the earth was flat!

Ancienti Academicus (sarcastically): For someone who hated the Classics and never picked up a Classic Greek book again you seem to remember remarkably well, Mr Darwin! You don't perhaps also remember that

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Anaximenes of Miletus also suggested that all things are produced through a process of gradual condensation and "rarefaction"? Similar to your evolution perhaps, Mr. Darwin? That fire is "exhaled" from the earth? And then you came with your "new" discoveries and theories of volcanic trust and the forming of new islands and new life?

Fool: Oopsy!

Ancienti Academicus: Or that Xenophanes of Colophon agreed with your "Salamander" that stars followed circular courses conceived as *bands* or *zones* and is obscured behind high parts of the earth?

Darwin: Your earth is still flat and so is your mind.

Fool: Oopsy!

Darwin: I forgot who he was but some Greek's idea was the creation came through a balance of different substances and the process of condensation, but this time from fire!

Fool: Yippee! Guy Fawkes again!

Darwin: Wait! There's more. "Night is formed of murkier exhalations from earth and day from exhalations ignited by the sun. Sun, moon, and stars were supposed to be fire caught in bowls, which tip away to cause eclipses and lunar phases."

Fool: Why not? Fantastic fireworks!

Darwin: "The moon travels through the less purified air close to earth, so it is dim, and that the sun is the closest and thus brightest and hottest of stars." Please! Where's the method?

(Africa Nus finds this fascinating!)

Ancienti Academicus: Don't steer away from the crux Mr. Darwin! Did or did not we Greeks first begin to specialize, develop, and apply the systems of empirical observation and deduction which we had invented? This same careful empirical observation and deduction you pride yourselves on in your Letters?

Fool (rapier stabs again): Touché

Darwin: All that I came to realise was, that Parmenides of Elea, wanted to proof that neither motion change, nor differences in matter can exist. My research shows the opposite! He was not stupid enough to think that the earth was flat! He thought about the heavenly bodies in a wreath as a sort of belt like an asteroid belt, and the outer shell as a true sphere. There was some evolution of the mind! Not some stuff that there was a hard universal sphere upon which

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the stars were fixed, and an inner sphere of double hemispheres! Imagine!
One of lighter fire for day and one of darker fire for night, please!

Fool: So the sun and moon were not physical bodies but concentrated, polished spots on this inner surface which reflect the outer fire! What a wonderful Idea!

Puppet: Why could the moon's light not be a reflection of the sun?

Fool: And that eclipses of the moon are caused by earth's shadow?

Puppet: And eclipses of the sun by the moon passing before it

Darwin: Eureka! Even Fool can realize that!

Judge: Order! Order! Come back to the question on the origin of life. Who created the world! Earth!

Ancienti Academicus: A god created ALL! From a ancient perspective I can say that we placed the Divine, called the "Hearth of the Universe" or "Throne of Zeus", at the centre of a finite, spherical universe. The sun is a glass sphere which catches and reflects this hearth-light. A counter-earth, the "antichthon", make the number of planetary spheres ten. These include the five visible planets out through Saturn, Earth, the Moon, the Sun, and the heavenly sphere on which were the Stars. This accounts for the frequency of lunar eclipses. The counter-earth also serves to eclipse the Hearth-Fire so that we never look God in the face.

Darwin: O, please! The earth is round! It's been proven by Copernicus in 1514! A sun centred universe! A Heliocentric universe and he was supported by both Aristarchus and Nicholas de Cusa! Copernicus rocked the world and believes in the way Creation functioned – not me with my research! He rocked the church to its foundations!

Ancienti Academicus: I know that! And he was almost killed for that! That's all fine! Copernicus was original! But you, Mr Darwin, your idea of studying microscopically small forms of life under the microscope, did you not get the idea from Leucippus and Socrates who said that condensation if material was the falling-together of atoms, and centrifugal force that helps keep the earth and bodies of fire in place?

Fool: If they developed an atomic theory then why didn't you blow the bloody Romans to smithereens?

AfricaNus: Eish!

Judge: Will you stop that?

Fool: I'm only asking!

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Ancienti Academicus: I see that Mr Darwin does not respond. I take it then that he did know of previous developments on theories on creation, and evolution. Now, if I may conclude. From us, the Ancient Greeks, Mr Darwin inherited a theory of the solar, or rather, geo-system which accounted for all visible phenomenon and the knowledge of subsequent astronomers and philosophers who fine-tuned ideas for different fields. As far as the question is concerned on who created the world, I reject that Mr Darwin's theory on the Origin of Man and Evolution is a new theory at all.

Darwin: If I may interrupt...

Judge: You may not! You had your time in the 19th century to say your say. Here we have Ancienti Academicus and his wisdom from ancient times to give his opinion. And as you said, Mr. Darwin "Nobody read the classics anymore." Let's give the guy his last minute!

Fool: Good gracious! How Gracious!

Ancienti Academicus (*striking a new Greek pose*): Friends, Omens and Countryman. Hear me, hear me, oh hear me! An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that, in some sense, The Origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle! So many are the conditions... which would have had to be in place to get life going that it can only be *described* as a miracle. When it happened we have no idea! The earth has so many diverse forms of life in so many places, the various chemical possibilities so numerous... and our knowledge and imagination too feeble to unravel exactly how it happened so long, long, long ago!

Puppet: Hear, Hear!

Judge: Scribe take that down!

Ancienti Academicus: I'm not finished yet! (*New pose*) I conclude. As of the time that I can report on... I place our Homeric and the Hesiodic myth-cycle as an explanation on the creation and the Origen of Man... instead, I say INSTEAD of your later version of our theories in your Bible.

(Shocked silence! Then all Hell breaks loose! Total chaos as everybody jumps up and words like "Blasphemy, Sacrilege, Profanity, Irreverence, Wickedness, Blasphemy, Disrespect, Insolence, Madness" are shouted. Everybody runs around under a red lit stage with the series of Medieval Torture Apparatus flashing on the projector screen. The Judge is hammering down on the block hysterically)

(Suddenly Christian church music thunders through the theatre and everybody freezes in fear staring at the wings and up to the sky. ReliGious's voice booms through the auditorium) This is unacceptable! (ReliGious walks firmly from the wings on the music. He is dressed in black like a priest with a whit biff like an Anglican, but he wears a golden cross around his neck, a Pope's hat and an Greek Orthodox or Russian Orthodox Incense burner in his hand. General surprise on stage. Everybody stares in amazement at him)

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Religious (*in a firm confident, but non-aggressive voice*): This is unacceptable! Why must I, Religious be kept in the wings for so long, Mr. Fool? Certainly I have something to say against this gobbledygook, claptrap nonsense! Surely I can say something about God and the Creation of this World and the Universe as it stands.

Fool: Come again?

Religious: I said "Surely I can say something about the Christian God and the Creation of this World and the Universe as it stands".

Puppet: Or as it moves? (*Covers up*) Uhhh... The universe I mean.

Judge: Shut up!

Fool: Holy Mo!

Religious: No, no, Me no Holy Mo! I, Christian Religious represent all the church fathers from Erasmus to the Pope, old King Henry and Elizabeth who wanted to be their own popes. Luther and Calvin and all the denominations as we know it today! Catholic, Protestant Russian and Greek orthodox, Anglican and whatever Pauper or paper a church is registered on! Etcetera!

Fool: Etcetera? Another new church?

Judge: Order!

Religious: Certainly I can bring Light or the Origin of Man and Creation!

*(Suddenly Eastern sitar music is filling the stage. Everybody is flabbergasted. From the other side of the stage a Chinese, Indian or Japanese woman named, **InCense**, comes dancing in Oriental style sideways onto the stage. She is dressed in Eastern clothes with all the paraphernalia of some sort of religion of the East. She carries a paw-paw in one hand and burning InCense in the other. Behind her her salve Suki-Jakkie draws a little red box on wheels with Chinese painting on it. There are holes in the box for fresh air. She dances in a circle and comes to a standstill in front of Judge. She speaks with an Indian accent)*

InCense: Pardon me for interrupting, Mr Western Religion, but it seems that you have forgotten the rich cultural history of the Eastern religions and our theories on the Creation of the World and the Origin of Man? Hindu, Islam, Buddhism –und-zo-weiter! I'm welcome am I not? I know that for some time we were not allowed everywhere – But this is not the Free State as of then down there. And times and space did change, am I right?

Puppet: Holy Mackerel. What-went-wong?

InCense: Me no me Holy Mackerel... Me name not What-Went Wong! No! Me name **InCense**. (*She swings the Incense*) Me full name... Holy Insense!

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Puppet: InCense? Okay Holy InCense! What's in the box?

InCense: My husband

Puppet: Your Husband? In that small box!

InCense: Yes. He cheated on me his whole life and now he is in the box.

Judge: Are you all crazy? You Chop-Chui him because he had a fling and now his in the box?

InCense (*sadly*): No. He died last year from heart attack in pleasure house! Who-Want-What Pleasure house. Now he is incarnated as a dog. Now I keep my eye on him.

Puppet: Oh! So he's in the dog-box!

InCense: Till his next life yes! (*Husband howls in box*).

Scribe: Must I make a note of that?

Judge: Do so!

Scribe: Do I just write 'Husband howls in box

Judge: Whatever! Fool! Come here...

InCense: Scribe, you can make a note on the believe in reincarnation.

Africa Nus: Eish! Reincarnation?

InCense: This will probably support Mr Darwin's theory of evolution! He said that we are all related, did he not? (*Husband barks joyfully*)

Darwin: I came to that conclusion later in life...

InCense: Well we from the East can support you! Let me explain! According to our religion, Man can be compared to a plant. He grows and flourishes like a plant and dies in the end but not completely. The plant also grows and flourishes and dies in the end. It leaves behind it the seed which produces a new plant. Man leaves when dying his Karma behind. That is the good or bad actions of his life. The physical body may die and disintegrate, but the impressions of his actions do not die. (*Husband howls*) I heard that! It's too late now! No doggy cookie for you tonight!

Fool: Shame.

InCense: He has to take birth again to enjoy the fruits of these actions. No life can be the first, for it is the fruits of previous actions, nor the last, for its actions must be expiated in the next life following. Therefore, Samsara or

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phenomenal existence is without beginning and an end. But there is no Samsara for a Jivanmukta or liberated sage who is resting in his own Sat-Chit-Ananda Svarupa. Very easy!

Scribe: Can you repeat that?

InCense (*with same gesture and tone*): Very easy

Scribe: No, I mean before that.

InCense: Oh! Sat-Chit-Ananda Svarupa. Paint the words!

Scribe: I have a bit of a problem painting the pictures of the words.

InCense: I will let have it in Computer translation.

Scribe: I don't trust computer translation. I tried to translate "Welcome to China" And when I did the reverse translation it said "Keep off the grass?"

InCense: Ok! I can let you have a little book on the issue. Here. Thank you. You owe me 20 Jen for printing costs. Come, come, come!

Scribe: I only got seven

InCense: Make it ten

Scribe: I say nine

InCense: Ok, nine! Just for you! Don't tell your friends! It's a bargain. Thank you!

Judge: Fool, come here!

Fool (*jumps up*): Yes, Judge?

Judge: Could you please explain this! Did you plan all this?

Fool: Judge... I'm Fool. Can I blame it on Globalization?

Judge: Nice try! No!

Fool: You see.. I'm supposed to present a balanced view on the Creation of the world. It was not just my fault!

Judge: What do you mean – not your fault?

Fool: It was all Mr. Darwin's fault Judge! He started all this confusion with that book and his theories. He rocked Man's view of many religions in many countries all over the world! That's why InCense is also here! The Chinese are in any case all over the place- setting up shops and things.

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Judge: Do I smell Xenophobia here?

Fool: I really don't know her Judge? I just thought Mr Darwin's theory was for the world almost as bad as old Copernicus's "the world does not stand on four pillars" way back then. And now I, the poor Fool, must solve the matter! So I thought to bring everybody here.

Darwin: It was never my intention to get into any fight with any Religious order at all.

(Everybody starts to talk and accuse each other in total chaos)

Judge *(hammers the block):* Order! Order! I suggest all calm down and we break for tea. Your husband can have a biscuit. *(Husband barks happily)*

InCense: Thank you! Green tea for me thanks.

Darwin: Earl Grey will do just nicely

Judge: We'll be back in this room in 15 minutes and then, Mr. Darwin... we'll come to your case! Religious and InCense can state their cases first. Dismissed!
(Husband howls) O Yes! Incensia! There is a convenience tree for your husband to your left outside the stage door. *(Husband barks happily)*

(General approval and mumbling they start to leave the stage, Darwin looks a bit befuddled at all the trouble he has caused and gets up slowly. Fool is almost out)

Darwin *(calling desperately after Fool):* Fool! Fool!!

Fool: Yes, Mr. Darwin?

Darwin *(whispers):* There's... There's... no toilet paper in the loo...

Fool *(sympathetically):* Ask the Scribe to find you some, Mr Darwin. She's the paper girl. And then take a nice cup of Earl Grey. Oh! You may take snuff in the dressing room, Mr. Darwin. I know you're dying for a puff of that snuff stuff.

Darwin: Thank you... You're such a kind Fool! *(He hurries off to the loo – obviously in distress. Africa Nus is still standing on the broom watching everything)*

Fool *(comes back to take Puppet with him):* Come, let's go and take a break, my friend!

Puppet *(sings as they move to the side):* It's a strange, strange world we live...
master Jack...

Africa Nus: Fool!

Fool *(turns):* Yes Africa Nus?

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Africa Nus: Eish! They've got it all wrong?

Puppet: All wrong? All of them? Did you hear that Fool?

Fool: I did.

Africa Nus: Eish! The world is much older than they think!

Puppet: Africa Nus... what do you know from dark Africa? You did not even write anything down!

Africa Nus: Not needed! Books can lie but a Fore-father will not lie to a child.

Fool: That's true.

Africa Nus: Let me tell you how life started on this earth! *(She makes magical moves with her arms and the sound of a traditional seed reed pipe is heard followed by African music on the finger piano. She tells the story in an intimate and secretive way)* Long ago there were only animals on earth! Animals, animals, animals everywhere! Now, when only the animals lived on the earth, one day a man and woman came down from the heavens.

Fools: Says who?

Africa Nus: Says Africa...

Puppet: Really?

Africa Nus: This man and woman came down from the heavens. And then... at the same time, another man and woman came up out of the ground.

Puppet: Eish!

Africa Nus: At that time man and woman had no desire for each other. They ate of the food of the earth, All day long they watched the animals playing with their children, but they did not know anything about reproduction and so and nothing about the process of birth. Then the Lord of the Heavens sent down a large Python to live in the river.

Fool *(shudders):* A snake?

Africa Nus: Yes a snake... This large Python asked the humans, "SSSHHH! Where are your children? All of the other animals have children... SHHHH". The humans said: "We don't have children". Then the snake said: "SHHHH... If you would like to have children, I can show you how. SHHHH". And then the snake led them to the river and the humans followed.

Puppet: Really!

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Fool: SHHH!

Africa Nus: When they arrived at the river the Python told the men and women to stand facing each other. He slipped into the river... SHHHH... When he returned from the river... he sprayed a mouthful of water on their bellies, saying "Kuss, Kuss". Even today down there the tribes still use these words in the rituals of tribes.

Puppet: Kuss, Kuss...

Fool: SHHHH...

Africa Nus: The Python then told the men and women to go home and lie down together. Then the miracle happened ... The women conceived and bore children. The children who were born then took the Spirit of the River where the Python lived as their tribal Spirit. Even today, the Python is held sacred by these tribes.

Puppet: Really?

Africa Nus: Yes. No-one must ever kill a Python. It will bring bad luck and a curse. If you find a Python that is already dead... then you must cover it in white clay to sanctify it and give it a proper burial...

Fool: Really?

Puppet: SHHHH...

Africa Nus: That is what we in Africa believe... That was how it happened...

Africa Nus and Fool: *(softly)*: Kuss, Kuss...

Puppet: SSHHHHHHHhhhhh....

The lights dim slowly down as the African music takes over for a magical moment or two before the auditorium light come on and it is...

INTERVAL

Scene 2

(It is after Interval. Fool and his Puppet comes back on stage on circus music or medieval street organ music. He places the Puppet upright in a hole in the table top in the centre. From the box he brings the wires Puppet of the Bat and puts it in the same way in a hole in the table top. Then the Angle follows and is placed in the same way. He snaps his fingers and a Chinese shadow Puppet is lowered from the

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roof. Again he snaps his fingers and an African Puppet is lowered on the other side. Both these dolls hang in mid-air. He makes a wheelie to the Judges podium and hammers the block three times. He wheelies back to his throne and sits down. The characters begin to stream in. InCense sits down on her husband in the dog-box. Africa Nus is not with them as she is away to another 'level'. Obviously the fight between *Ancienti Academicus*, *ReliGious* has been going on during tea-time as they speak as they come to their positions)

Fool: Come on... Come on! We haven't got the whole day... or night... or whatever it is...

Ancienti Academicus: ... as I was trying to say... Plato had interesting views... and very broad shoulders... At the age of twenty he became a student under Socrates. Of him he said. "I thank the gods for having been born a Greek and not a foreigner, a man and not a woman, free and not a slave, but above all for having been born during the time of Socrates."

ReliGious: Well at least the man thanked God.

Ancienti Academicus: He said gods! In Sicily he knew Dionysius the Elder.

ReliGious: Dionysius! That drunken god?

Ancienti Academicus: No, not him! You were not born yet. Dionysius the Elder, the tyrant of Syracuse. He soon became a prisoner of war and was sold as a slave.

Judge: Can we have some order here please! Mr. Darwin! Your Grandfather, the famous scientist, Erasmus Darwin, in his *Zoönomia* makes references to ideas that resemble evolution and DNA. Was it possible that you... let's say "borrowed" some ideas on evolution from Granny?

Darwin: I did read the book and was not impressed as nothing was proved.

Ancienti Academicus: Not impressed! Your Granddad at least knew and mentions both Aristotle and Plato in his work!

Darwin (calmy): The reference to Aristotle in *Zoönomia* is misunderstood. He refers to the quote in *Physics* where Aristotle actually argues against evolutionary concepts.

ReliGious: If I may come in here! Evolution is a fallacy! Aristotle was right!

Ancienti Academicus: As all our Greeks usually are!

Fool: Eureka!

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Darwin: The concepts of evolution put my Granddad Erasmus, similar to those later put forward by Lamarck. His view was that animals changed according to their wants. That want could create a change.

(Husband's dog barks joyfully)

Fool: So a horse wanted to chat-up a donkey and she also wanted the horse and Voila! A mule was created!

Darwin: It was just an example! Erasmus refers to mules because he is talking about the possibility that there were originally a few basic forms of life and that the variety we see today has come from the interbreeding of these few basic forms.

ReliGious: I beg your pardon! It is clearly stated in the Bible, Genesis 1 - that God created the world and all life on it!

Fool: Here we go!!!!

InCense: You've got it all wrong! It's an on-going process,

Puppet: Fire away! Strangle him!

Judge: Order! Let Mr Darwin proceed.

Darwin: From his account of reproduction, it appears that all animals have a similar origin. Life springs from a single living filament! The difference of their forms and qualities has arisen only from the different irritabilities and sensibilities of this original living filament -perhaps in some degree from the different forms of the particles of the fluids, by which it has been first stimulated into activity. But I'm convinced that life springs from a single living filament

Ancienti Academicus: Old hat!

Fool: What's that?

Ancienti Academicus: Fluids!

Puppet: Fluids what?

Ancienti Academicus: In the study of nature, We Greeks had a concept of fluids, called phusis, the Chinese did not.

InCense: So what? We in the east did not seek the ultimate constituents of things. We rather sought an understanding of the processes of change without postulating a radical separation between perception and reality. The material to observe was the same, but the style of inquiry differed.

Fool: I like that?

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InCense: You like what?

Fool: The inquiry to different styles.

Puppet: The inquiry to different styles! You guys in the East also wrote the Kama Sutra, correct?

InCense: Come again?

Puppet: The Kama Sutra!

(General outcries of disapproval. Husband barks)

Scribe: Come again?

Religious: Oh, come off it!

Judge *(hammers the block)*: Stop That! Come what may! I will not allow this inquiry to Zuma to that level! Put that Puppet in the box with the dog.

Puppet: But... But...

Judge: No But... but.. If you open that filthy mouth again may Holy InCense's husband bite-bite you to pieces. Holy InCense will you please lift your bum so the dog can be accommodated?

Fool: That's not fair!

Judge: Do what I say! Proceed with the juices Mr. Darwin.

(The Puppet is put in the box while Fool talks softly to the dog and begs not to bite the Puppet)

Darwin: May interrupt here! While travelling on the Beagle I found in Copiaco an abundance of petrified shells. It found it a amusing to find the same subject discussed there on a totally different continent as formerly discussed amongst the learned of Europe concerning the origin of these shells. The question for these wild men was the same. "Whether they really were shells or were thus "born by Nature". My general method of explanation then was that God made them.

Religious: I'm glad to hear that!

Ancienti Academicus: We Greeks preferred a differed style of inquiry. As in mathematics and astronomy, we sought a deductive explanation validated by prediction!

InCense: We Chinese sought to determine patterns like the eclipse cycles in order to facilitate prediction.

Don't shoot the messenger - Darwin

Judge: Well it seems in both cases astrology provided a key impetus. In harmonics too there were common concerns, such as to elucidate the regularities of scales.

Fool: Whoa! What a statement!

Ancienti Academicus: But Chinese omitted the methodological debate over perception versus reason as tools of harmonic analysis.

Darwin: Science, as Lloyd would define it, is a matter of *aims* - to comprehend and explain natural phenomena - and that common ground allows analysis.

InCense: I agree that we Chinese lacked an explicit concept about phusis. We studied a world of "natural" phenomena, in contrast to the phenomena of "spirits" and "deities"

Judge: Ha! That too provides a common ground. What do you say Mr Darwin?

Darwin: Lloyd argues that the primary referents of natural phenomena themselves provide a shared reality.

Ancienti Academicus: We as scientists should be limited neither to our own perspective *nor* to an ancient perspective, whether purely Greek or purely Chinese

Fool: So you, Ancienti Academicus, are actually prepared to let your Greek view be challenged?

Ancienti Academicus: We Greeks were always open for new ideas. As long as it is new ideas and not 'borrowed' from ancient Greek Scientists

Darwin: I object!

Ancienti Academicus: It is to be hoped that the theory advocated by Lloyd will continue to bear fruit:

Fool: And that others will take up the task of learning Chinese or Sanskrit! That may provide a wider vision.

ReliGious: Let's get back to the mules! Human interference was not part of God's plan! All those original animals and vegetable creations could continue their species and have done so. The numerous families of animals and vegetables which now exist was created originally by God. But all these man made mules, Mr Darwin, Ancienti Academicus and oh, not so innocent, InCense - which were produced with imperfect organs of generation, perished without reproduction. They become sterile!

Ancienti Academicus: So what's new? Aristotle observed that many moons ago!

Don't shoot the messenger - Darwin

Judge: And what has Mr Darwin to say on this?

Darwin: All animals and life for that matter, I am convinced thought patient observation and scientific research, originated from a single living filament, endowed indeed with different kinds of irritabilities and sensibilities, or of animal appetencies; which exist in every gland, and in every moving organ of the body, and are as essential to living organization as chemical affinities are to certain combinations of inanimate matter.

Religious: There we go again!

Darwin: But it's right here in front of our eyes! Look at the great similarity of structure which obtains in all the warm blooded animals, as well quadrupeds, birds, and amphibious animals, as in mankind; from the mouse and bat to the elephant and whale...

Fool: I sincerely hope they didn't try InCenses's Kama Sutra!

InCense: I wouldn't advise that!

Judge: Stop doing that, Fool!

Darwin: If we really focus on the issue, one is led to conclude, that they have alike been produced from a similar living filament. In some, this filament in its advance to maturity has acquired hands and fingers, with a fine sense of touch, as in mankind. In others it has acquired claws or talons, as in tigers and eagles. In others, toes with an intervening web, or membrane, as in seals and geese. In others it has acquired cloven hoofs, as in cows and swine; and whole hoofs in others, as in the horse. While in the bird kind this original living filament has put forth wings instead of arms and legs, and feathers instead of hair. In some it has protruded horns on the forehead instead of teeth in the fore part of the upper jaw; in others tushes instead of horns; in others beaks instead of either.

Fool: I hear a bird singing from the Beagle!

Darwin: Another great want consists in the means of procuring food, which has diversified the forms of all species of animals. Thus the nose of the swine has become hard for the purpose of turning up the soil in search of insects and of roots.

Fool: Thus the trunk of the elephant is an elongation of the nose for the purpose of pulling down the branches of trees for his food, and for taking up water without bending his knees, Because it will look funny!

Darwin: Seriously, you are right! Beasts of prey have acquired strong jaws or talons.

Fool: Judge: Can I please remove the Puppet from that horrible dog!

Don't shoot the messenger - Darwin

InCense (*stands up and kicks Fool's shin and gives him a few Karate chops, accompanied with war shouts*): You are talking about my Husband! He might be a dog, but he's still my husband! Kiaaa!

Fool: Judge? Is this allowed?

Judge: You looked for it! Mr Darwin I want back to the Beagle and the birds!

Darwin: During the visit to the Galápagos Islands on the Beagle with Capt. FitsRoy, I, with the help of other crewmembers, collected many different bird specimens.

Fool: Is that not what all sailors do? Collect some harbour birds?

Judge: Shut-up!

Darwin: I catalogued all these birds and identified them as best he could. I noticed that life on each of the islands was mostly the same, but just a little bit different. Upon returning home in 1836 I was only a minor celebrity due to the publication of some of my notes and the fossils that I had sent back to England. I then presented my collection of birds to the ornithologist John Gould, who informed me that he had incorrectly identified most of the birds. To my surprise, nearly all the small songbirds in his collection were different types of finches.

Fool: That's the bird I heard a few minutes ago! Darwin's famous finches!

Darwin: We all know that some birds have acquired harder beaks to crack nuts, as the parrot. Others have acquired beaks adapted to break the harder feeds, as sparrows. Others for the softer seeds of flowers, or the buds of trees... Other birds have acquired long beaks to penetrate the moister soils in search of insects or roots, as woodcocks; and others broad ones to filtrate the water of lakes, and to retain aquatic insects, as ducks.

ReliGious: All created by God in perfect shape and varieties for different purposes

Darwin: Or which seem to have been gradually produced during many generations by the perpetual endeavour of the creatures to supply the want of food, and to have been delivered to their posterity with constant improvement of them for the purposes required.

Fool: Touché!

Darwin: With all prove right in front of me... the idea of a tree of life slowly started forming...

Fool: With man up in the tree eating mangos and a baboon reading his newspapers under it! Or was it the other way round!

ReliGious: Exactly! And the man in tree was probably Mr Darwin himself!

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Darwin (*calmly*): I guess you never climbed a tree or ate a mango in your life, Mr ReliGious?

ReliGious: Are you suggesting I'm an Ape or something? I am the Church!

Darwin: I shudder to think, Mr ReliGious what has been done in the name of the Church.

ReliGious: How dare you attack the Church and God!

Darwin: I never attacked the church or God! I just observed! During my tour from South America the HMS Beagle sailed over to Australia, where Darwin I, to my same and horror learned that Christians of the Church of England were hunting the natives for fun and allowing their dogs to eat them.

Fool (hysterical): Please Judge! Can I get my Puppet?

Judge: Under these circumstances yes! Will you please lift your bum Holy InCense so that the Puppet can be released?

InCense: Strangely enough, in the East we humans prefer to the eat the dog?

Darwin: That's as bad!

Puppet: Thank You! I think your husband passed out. Can you give him a bit of air please?

Judge They actually gave their dogs humans to eat?

Darwin: They did. Christians did just that.

Judge Why are you so silent, mister ReliGious?

ReliGious: I... I didn't know about that...

Darwin: That's lie. There was nothing I could do about it. I had such a fight over this matter that I and Capt. FritsRoy had a serious fallout. He chased me out of the compartment to eat with the ship's crew! On his journey I was as impressed by the variation that I found in nature as I was with the variation that I found in human civilization. The extreme differences in human culture and civilization among the people I came in contact with had a profound effect on my views about religion and humanity. After seeing people living in such different levels of civilization, I was inclined to believe that humans had evolved over time from simpler origins.

Fool: Apes? Baboons? Gorillas?

Darwin: Why not? In Rio de Janeiro Mr Lennon, a so-called civilized Christian, quarrelled with his agent. He threatened to sell at the public auction an illegitimate mulatto child to whom Mr. Cowper was much attached.

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Fool: The animal!

Darwin: He also was nearly put into execution. He wanted to take all the women and children from their husbands and sell them separately at the market at Rio. And Mr. Lennon is supposed to be above the common run of men. How strange and inexplicable is the effect of habit and interest! Against such facts how weak are the arguments of those who maintain that slavery is a tolerable evil!

Judge: I agree!

Darwin: Slavery! All white men are above it, and every black about there was a slave. But look at the other side! Ascending the Caucovado mountain, 2,225 feet, whilst passing through the woods, I observed the smallness of the trunks of the trees. We met three most villainous looking ruffians, armed up to the teeth. They were Maticans or slave-hunters, and receive so much for every man dead or alive whom they may take. In the former case they only bring down the ears. On one trip a mulatto and a little Brazilian boy accompanied me, The latter was quite a child, but I never saw anything at all equal to his power of perception. Many of the rarest animals in the most obscure trails were caught by him. My eyes with years of practice were not at all on a par with this child's. Yet they were killed by the most brutal Christians I've ever met.

Religious: Come on Mr Darwin! Some wars are justified!

Darwin: Like the murdering of the Indians in America? The soldiers pursue and sabre every man. Like wild animals the Indians fight to the last instant. One Indian nearly cut off with his teeth the thumb of a soldier, allowing his own eye to be nearly pushed out of the socket.

Religious: Never trust an Indian! I heard of one who was wounded and who pretended to be dead, but, with a knife under his cloak was ready to strike the first who approached.

Darwin: Wouldn't you when your life was at stake? I met a soldier who said that when he was pursuing an Indian, the man cried out "Companèro – my friend! Do not kill me!" At the same time - supposedly and according to the soldier - covertly loosening the balls from round his body, meaning to whirl them round his head and so kill him! He however struck the Indian with his sabre to ground, then got off his horse and cut his throat. Maybe the Indian was just disarming himself!

Religious: One would never know!

Darwin: That was the soldier's side on the story. How much more shocking is the unquestionable fact, that all the women who appear above twenty years old, are massacred in cold blood. I hinted that this appeared rather inhuman and surely not the way a Christian should behave. A certain man's response was: "Why, what can be done, they breed so". Every one there is fully convinced

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that this is a just war, because it is against Barbarians. Who would believe in this age in a Christian, civilized country that such atrocities were committed? The children of the Indians are saved, to be sold or given away as a kind of slave, for as long a time as the owner can deceive them.

Religious: Were these Indians Religious, that's what I want know! Did they believe in God? And did you ever attend church during that time, Mr. Darwin,

Darwin: In fact I did! But I must admit it was confusing times for me.

Judge: Why?

Darwin: In Hacienda in Chili, there were several very pretty Signoritas who turned up their charming eyes in pious horror at my having entered a Church to look about me. They asked me, why I did not become a Christian, "for our religion is certain" they said. I assured them I was a sort of Christian. They would not hear of it!

Judge: Why?

Darwin: Well, they said "Do not your padres, your very bishops, marry" The absurdity of a Bishop having a wife particularly struck them, they scarcely knew whether to be most amused or horrified at such an atrocity. So I must admit Religious that I started wondering about a few things in the dogma of the church.

Fool: But you were supposed to be a clergyman! You attendee a Christian school!

Darwin: That is true. I did.

Religious: And then Natural History and Science became your god.

Puppet:. That's not fair! He never said that!

Darwin: I studied medicine at Edinburgh University. I wanted to become a physician like my father. At Edinburgh he learned about the ideas of Lamarck and other evolutionary concepts.

Fool: Was Daddy Darwin happy with that?

Darwin: I'm ashamed to say that showed no interest in becoming a physician. So in 1827 my father enrolled me at Christ's College at the University of Cambridge to become a clergyman.

Religious: Thanks Heavens we were saved that! Can you imagine the corruption you would cause!

Puppet:. I can imagine!"

Fool: Shut up! His thoughts were his own, am I not right, Mr Darwin?

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Darwin: To be honest, as from what little I had heard or thought on the subject I had scruples about declaring my belief in all the dogmas of the Church of England.

Religious: There... He said it!

Darwin: Sorry, but let me explain. At that stage I also true that I liked the idea of being a country clergyman. Accordingly I read with care 'Pearson on the Creed,' and a few other books on Divinity; and as I did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible, I soon persuaded myself that our Creed must be fully accepted.

Religious: Then there was hope for you!

Darwin: But at Christ's College I also studied natural history along with many other doctrinal subjects. I brushed up my Classics!

Ancienti Academicus: There you are! What did I tell you! He brushed up your classics! At last some honesty. Mr Darwin?

Darwin: The classics did little to influence my theory on the Origin of the species! I enjoyed Algebra and Euclid, which latter gave me much pleasure. In order to pass the B.A. examination, it was also necessary to get up Paley's 'Evidences of Christianity,' and his 'Moral Philosophy.' I am convinced that I could have written out the whole of the 'Evidences' with perfect correctness! The logic of this book and, as I may add, of his 'Natural Theology,' gave me as much delight as did Euclid.

Ancienti Academicus: Thank you!

Darwin: Before leaving the university to become a full-time clergyman, i enrolled in a geology course run by Reverend Adam Sedgwick, who was a strong proponent of the idea that all of nature was divinely designed by God.

Religious: Obviously!

Darwin: But then again, my grandfather Erasmus Darwin argued in his *The Laws of Organic Life* that if the great similarity of the structure of the warm-blooded animals is considered, and the great changes they undergo both before and after their nativity, would it be too bold to imagine, that in the great length of time, since the earth began to exist, perhaps millions of ages before the commencement of the history of mankind...

Religious: Yes... go on!

Darwin: Would it be too bold to imagine, that all warm-blooded animals have arisen from one living filament!

Religious: Blasphemy!

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Judge: Scribe, take that down!

Darwin: But mark the small changes in animals over time. They have the power of acquiring new parts attended with new propensities, directed by irritations, sensations, volitions, and associations; and thus possessing the faculty of continuing to improve by its own inherent activity, and of delivering down those improvements by generation to its posterity in a world without end!

Fool: Like your finches with adapted beaks?

Darwin: Precisely! Just as Jean-Baptiste Chevalier de Lamarck, in *Zoological Philosophy* proposed as the first testable evolutionary hypothesis.

ReliGious: As far as I can remember, Lamarck's proposals were ridiculed!

Darwin: He was not well understood at that time, because he introduced the concept of evolution! I agree that he was ultimately wrong about how evolution works, he was also right about several things, and he did defend the concept of common descent.

ReliGious: And that is?

Darwin: That all living things on earth are biologically related.

(InCense's husband barks in the Chinese box as if to agree!)

InCense: My husband agrees!

ReliGious: Blasphemy again!

Puppet: O dear!

Darwin: All I can say is when I was on the HMS Beagle I was an orthodox Christian, but my views changed over time as I came in contact with the world. Whilst on board the Beagle I was quite orthodox, and I remember being heartily laughed at by several of the officers (though themselves orthodox) for quoting the Bible as an unanswerable authority on some point of morality. But I had gradually come, by this time, to see that the Old Testament; from its manifestly false history of the world, with the Tower of Babel, the rainbow as a sign, etc., and from its attributing to God the feelings of a revengeful tyrant, was no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindus, or the beliefs of any barbarian.

Fool: O dear! Now you have put your foot right into it!

Ancienti Academicus: And our trusted believe in our Homeric and the Hesiodic myth-cycle as an explanation on the creation and the Origen of Man is also thrown out of the window?

Darwin: I guess so.

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InCense: I am now so totally confused! Mr Darwin said that all living things on earth are biologically related. I agree fully as that is precisely what reincarnation means!

Fool: May I suggest we call on the oldest continuous culture in the world to clear up the matter?

Judge: What do you mean?

Fool: Due to the isolation of the Australian continent. The mythology of the **Aboriginal** Australians is also thought to be reflective of some of man's earliest mythology.

Puppet: That would throw a spanner in the wheel. Let's do! Let's do!

Ancienti Academicus: I object!

Judge: Why?

Ancienti Academicus: We're having an intelligent conversation here! Why should we listen to Barbarians?

ReliGious: Who cannot even write! I also object!

Judge: Overruled! Proceed Fool

Puppet: Yippee!!! An Original Aboriginal!

Fool: I call on Aboriginal! Scribe call him!

Scribe (*announces*): May I present Aboriginal!

(Aboriginal, (a man or woman depending on director) in full tribal dress and paint appears on stage, doing a sort of Haka on the sound of a Didgeridoo)

Aboriginal: Hariohaka I speak twakka. Hoesh, hoesh, hakamaraka!

(InCense's husband barks in the box)

Ancienti Academicus: See! What did I say! Barbarians!

Darwin: Just give a man a chance!

Judge: Fool do something:

Fool: Immediately! *(He comes downs to Aboriginal and puts a magic spell on him who is mesmerised by the swinging pocket watch):* Mastica, Langoustica, twa! Aborinini langouystini Angelic!

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Aboriginal (*out of trance*): Greetings and good wishes, my dear Ladies, Gentleman Fool and Puppet... (*InCense's husband barks in the box*) and dog.

InCense: I beg your pardon! You're talking about MY HUSBAND!

Judge: Can we some order here!

Religious: I will listen to this nonsense but not believe it!

Puppet: I want to hear what he has to say!

Fool: Dear honoured original Aboriginal. Will you be able to tells us what you believe is the Aboriginal Australian origin mythology.

Aboriginal: In the beginning the earth was a bare plain. All was dark. There was no life, no death. The sun, the moon, and the stars slept beneath the earth. All the eternal ancestors slept there, too, until at last they woke themselves out of their own eternity and broke through to the surface.

Religious: Nonsense.

Judge: Please give him a chance!

Aboriginal: When the eternal ancestors arose, in the Dreamtime, they wandered the earth, sometimes in animal form. Sometimes as kangaroos, or emus, or lizards and sometimes in human shape, sometimes part animal and human, sometimes as part human and plant.

Judge: You like the Idea Mr Darwin?

Darwin: I daresay, I find it very interesting!

Religious: I'm sure you would!

Ancienti Academicus: What on earth is emus?

Darwin: A very interesting bird! *Dromaius novaehollandiae*. It is the largest bird native to Australia and the only extant member of the genus, Dromaius. It is also the second-largest extant bird in the world by height, after its relative, the ostrich of South Africa. It's a flightless bird such as an ostrich and has a flat breastbone without the ridge-shaped part keel to which the flight muscles are attached in a flying bird...

Judge (hammers block): Please Mr. Darwin... We were on to the origin of man with **Aboriginal** here.

Darwin: Sorry...

Judge: Proceed!

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Religious: I can't wait to hear how these kangaroo-cum-emo-cum-lizard appeared in human shape.

Ancient Academicus: Remember! Sometimes also part animal and human or part human and plant.

Fool: Give the chap a chance!

Aboriginal: Two such beings, self-created out of nothing, were the Ungambikula.

Religious: Self-created out of nothing? Total psychosis!

Aboriginal: The Ungambikula wandered the world and they found half-made human beings. They were made of animals and plants, but were shapeless bundles, lying higgledy-piggledy, near where water holes and salt lakes could be created. The people were all doubled over into balls, vague and unfinished, without limbs or features.

Darwin (seriously interested): Near water holes?

Aboriginal: Near water holes. The, with their great stone knives, the Ungambikula carved heads, bodies, legs, and arms out of the bundles. They made the faces, and the hands and feet. At last the human beings were finished.

Puppet: Maybe I'm also a human being! Maybe the Ungambikula carved me as well!

Judge: Fool, tell that Puppet to shut up!

Fool: Puppet shut up!

Aboriginal: Thus every man and woman was transformed from nature and owes allegiance to the totem of the animal or the plant that made the bundle they were created from - such as the plum tree, the grass seed, the large and small lizards, the parakeet, or the rat.

Religious: So you pray to dead things like totems! Blasphemy!

Fool: But what happened to the Ungambikula?

Aboriginal: This work done, the ancestors went back to sleep. Some of them returned to underground homes, others became rocks and trees. The trails the ancestors walked in the Dreamtime are holy trails. Everywhere the ancestors went, they left sacred traces of their presence -- a rock, a waterhole, a tree.

Puppet: So they are gone? It is so sad!

Aboriginal: No! For the Dreamtime does not merely lie in the distant past, the Dreamtime is the Eternal Now.

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Darwin: What?

Aboriginal: The Eternal Now!

Religious: This is ridiculous! God made the world in six days and created life!

Ancienti Academicus: That tickles my fancy!

Judge: What do you mean?

Ancienti Academicus: As someone who constantly seeks new ideas and possibilities, I like Aboriginal's idea! The idea of an Eternal Now!

Puppet: I like it to! I want my ice cream now! And it will last forever!

Judge: Are you all crazy? An eternal now?

Darwin: You see... That was exactly my point! What if God did not create the world in six days as we know in but over an eternal length of time? That supports my theory!

Religious (*clasps hands over ears*): Blasphemy! The same nonsense the Sumerians, believed! I read that while at Bible school

Puppet: Tell us please! Tell us

Religious: Oh such nonsense that the gods lived on earth where they worked and toiled. After some time, the gods grew tired of working so they created humans to do their work for them.

Puppet: Really?

Religious: Mr. Darwin here, would off course think it could happen. In Sumerian mythology a team of six gods created humans from a special mud. During the creation several different "defective" people were made, (non-sexual, sterile, diseased, and blind) explaining why it is that such afflicted people exist on the earth. Can you believe such nonsense! Animals, in this case, already existed and were of a completely separate origin. The people were made in the image of the gods, to be like the gods, but they were mortal and imperfect. This false mythology tells that people were created for the purpose of labouring and ruling over the animals and farm fields.

Ancienti Academicus: Now Mister Religious! Do you know of the primary Babylonian god Marduk who is credited with directing the creation of the heavens and the earth through six cycles and creating man as the final and ultimate act of his creation? Does this 6 days with man created at the end sound a bit familiar? Do you not think Moses knew this? Moses who wrote Genesis for the Jews in exile in Babylon?

Religious: Are you suggesting...

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Judge: Very interesting!

Ancienti Academicus: Well... In the Babylonian myth the blood of Kingu, a god who led a rebellion against Marduk, was used to create mankind. Here it is. The original poem! (*He takes a scroll from his bag*)

“Marduk’s heart prompts him to create ingenious things.

'Blood will I form and cause bone to be;
Then will I set up a savage, Man shall be his name!
Yes, I will create mankind!
Upon him shall the services of the gods be imposed that they may be at rest.

Kingu it was who created the strife,
And caused Tiamat to rebel and prepare for battle.
They - the gods - bound him and held him before Ea;
Punishment they inflicted upon him by cutting the arteries of his blood.
With his blood they created mankind;

ReliGious: And you believe that!

Ancienti Academicus: Let me get to my point! In the Sumerian myth the humans have no divinity, but in the Babylonian myth people are given partial divinity by their creation from the blood of a god, but the god from whom they were made was rebellious and deceitful, thus giving the explanation for the "negative" aspects of human behaviour.

ReliGious: Did you here that Judge? A rebellious and deceitful god!

Judge: Scribe! Note that down!

Ancienti Academicus: Like the creation myths of the Sumerians and Babylonians, the creation myth of the Hebrews tells of a separate and special creation of man. In the Hebrew myth man is also given dominion over the plant and animal kingdoms. Would you mind telling us what is written in the Bible, Mr. ReliGious?

ReliGious: And God made the beasts of the earth after his kind and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every herb

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bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so." Now who will question that? Everything was made after his kind Mr. Darwin! No talk of evolution at all. Full stop!

Darwin: What I found interesting was that in Genesis, like in the Sumerian and Babylonian myths the existence of cattle - domesticated animals - at the time of creation is mentioned. When were they tamed to become domesticated?

Religious: That is not for us to know! How can we comprehend the work of God? How can we not understand that we are mere Fools! Who would describe the intelligence of a man to him, who when he saw such regularity in the movements of the heavens, such stability in the order of the stars, such interconnection and mutual coherence in all things? How can we be sceptical, although we see the heavens rushing on with marvellous speed, and bringing about with the utmost regularity the yearly recurring changes of the seasons by their revolution, ensuring thereby the most complete well-being and preservation of all things which I say is but of an intelligence which is exalted and Divine? For we may now set aside the refinements of argument, and survey, as it were, with our eyes the beauty of the things which I say were instituted by the Divine Providence!

Judge: Whoa!

Darwin: But things change! Dinosaurs lived on this earth. Islands got born a few million years ago. I spend five years on the HMS Beagle! Most of my time, I spend on land studying wildlife and recording geological features. I spend time with native peoples, going on long expeditions inland to survey regions and document the flora and fauna. I found many fossils, observed primitive cultures, and documented unknown organisms!

Religious: Unknown to us humans maybe, but not unknown to God!

Darwin: Please! I never challenged the existence of the Creator. All I tried to do was to find a pattern – a rule! A theory on evolution and natural selection and I found it! I almost got killed several times on the journey. I got caught up in a genocidal war that was being waged against natives in Argentina by the Catholic General Juan Manuel de Rosas.

Judge: Come back to your theory Mr. Darwin!

Darwin (*calmed down*): During my visit to the Galápagos Islands, I collected many different bird specimens. I catalogued all of them and identified them. The finches of the different islands adapted their beaks according to the different kinds of food available on every specific island. The proof is there! On my journey I was as impressed by the variation that I found in nature as I was with the variation that he found in human civilization. And these differences in

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humans had a profound effect on my views about religion and humanity. After seeing people living in such different levels of civilization I was inclined to believe that humans had evolved over time from simpler origins.

Religious: Again and again you question the word of God! Is this to be allowed, Judge?

Judge: You had you say Mr. Religious. Be fair and let Mr Darwin state his case.

Darwin: Upon returning home in 1836 I presented my collection of birds to ornithologist John Gould, who informed me that I had incorrectly identified most of the birds. To my surprise, nearly all the small songbirds in my collection were different types of finches adapted to survive under the specific circumstances.

Judge: And on those few birds you based your theory!

Religious: And rejected God!

Darwin: No. Something else happened. My health was generally poor. And... and in 1851 my dear daughter Annie died at age 10 from a painful illness. The loss was particularly hard for me... With her death my faith, that had already been challenged by my findings in the natural world altered to become an agnostic... After watching my daughter dying this painful death... I could not believe that a benevolent God was watching over the world.

Religious: Is it true that did not attend her funeral?

Darwin: I... couldn't. I was too weak from mourning... Would you please excuse me...*(He is overwhelmed by emotion and leaves the stage)*

Fool: May I come in here Judge! I have Mr Darwin's letter to W. D. Fox written at Down 5 days after Annie's death. Maybe we can put Mr. Religious at ease on this matter. May I?

Judge: Proceed...

Fool: Here it is. "I do not suppose you will have heard of our bitter and cruel loss. Poor dear little Annie, when going on very well at Malvern, was taken with a vomiting attack, which was at first thought of the smallest importance, but it rapidly assumed the form of a low and dreadful fever, which carried her off in 10 days. Thank God she suffered hardly at all, and expired as tranquilly as a little angel. Our only consolation is, that she passed a short, though joyous life. She was my favourite child; her cordiality, openness, buoyant joyousness and strong affection made her most loveable. Poor, dear, little soul... Well it is all over... Yours affectionately, C. Darwin."

Religious: Poor man...

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Fool: I say... let's not get hard on Darwin. After all – he was only a human being... And may I... Mr ReliGious go a bit further and ask just something about the church.

ReliGious: Ask me anything and I will answer you. I cannot lie.

Fool: Did not the church also go through a sort of evolution process?

ReliGious: What do you mean:

Fool: At the end of the Middle Ages, was their not great division in the Western Christian church? The Reformation? Remember a 1000 years after Augustine. Then came Luther and then John Calvin in the sixteenth century and then voila! King Henry and his queen Elizabeth decide to become their own Popes with the Church of England...

ReliGious: Now wait a minute!

Fool: I am Fool! I'm supposed to ask questions. And now we have Protestants and Anglicans and Quakers and many more religions all over the world...

Judge: What is your point, Fool?

Fool: I just want to know whether the strongest Church today, did not adapt to the needs of the congregation like Mr Darwin's finches on the islands? You know- some sort of evolution – survival of the fittest?

ReliGious: It is not the Church that is under scrutiny, you Fool. Call Mr. Darwin!

Judge: You're right! Scribe: Go find out whether Mr. Darwin's has finished whatever he was doing. Puppet if I hear one comment you're thrown out and banished back into the tree your coming from!

Scribe: Mister Darwin!

Darwin: Coming!

Judge: A Mr. Darwin. Feeling better?

Darwin: Yes, thank you.

Judge: After that terrible year you found a renewed interest in your concept of natural selection, true or not?

Darwin: Yes I worked on experiments to test his hypothesis of natural selection. I used plants and pigeons to test how individuals in a population changed over generations in response to an altered natural environment. I found that over generations the traits of a population did change in relation to the different conditions of the environment in which they existed. And then I was introduced to the work of the naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace. His paper on

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species echoed many of my beliefs. My work, *The Origin of Species* was then published. And then In 1859, I published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*.

Judge: And that book became an international phenomenon?

Darwin: That was my major publication .

Ancienti Academicus: After my time. Explain it to me Mr Darwin so I can give your thoughts my critical Greek opinion!

Darwin: In short, the basis of what I proposed was this that species have great fertility. They make more offspring than can grow to adulthood. Secondly populations remain roughly the same size, with modest fluctuations. Food resources are limited, but are relatively constant most of the time. From these three observations it may be inferred that in such an environment there will be a struggle for survival among individuals. In sexually reproducing species, generally no two individuals are identical. Variation is rampant. Much of this variation is heritable. I was convinced that my dear little Annie suffered from a weakness that she inherited from me.

Ancienti Academicus: So the two guiding forces of evolution proposed by you natural selection and sexual selection?

Darwin: I preferred the term "descent with modification *through* natural selection", which has caused confusion over the years because it presents natural selection as the "cause" of evolution, which it is not.

Judge: Come again?

Darwin: That many and grave objections may be advanced against the theory of descent with modification through natural selection, I do not deny.

ReliGious: At last you speak some sense!

Darwin: But I have endeavoured to give to them their full force. Nothing at first can appear more difficult to believe, than that the more complex organs and instincts should have been perfected not by means superior to, though analogous with, human reason, but by the accumulation of innumerable slight variations, each good for the individual possessor. There is a struggle for existence leading to the preservation of each profitable deviation of structure or instinct. The truth of these propositions cannot, I think, be disputed.

Fool: Whoa!

Ancienti Academicus: So this "descent with modification", is guided by natural and sexual selection... how did inheritance work?

Darwin: We didn't know.

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Fool: I know! Let me just plug in www.futureexplanations.com! One second! (*He listens intensely*) Ok... Got you Bud! I'm not sure how it works but according to my source at www.futureexplanations.com the role of DNA was since then been discovered, so there is a clear explanation for how traits can be passed on to progeny.

Judge: Scribe. Note that down!

Ancient Academicus: Fantastic: So... It seems that new evidence to support the basic principles that you had put forward, Mr Darwin.

Darwin: At that time my theories were well supported Europe but not so much in America. In Germany we had freethinkers and they adopted the ideas. The British were more sceptical.

Religious: On the whole, however, the negative reaction from the Religious community was overwhelming if I may say so.

Darwin: I intentionally avoided discussing the implications of these ideas in relation to mankind or religion in *The Origin of Species*.

Religious: But you couldn't your mouth shut too long could you! I have here with me, oh Judge! A book called *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*, published in 1871 by this very same Mr Darwin. I quote! "Belief in God-Religion: There is no evidence that man was originally endowed with the ennobling belief in the existence of an Omnipotent God. On the contrary, there is ample evidence, derived not from hasty travellers, but from men who have long resided with savages, that numerous races have existed, and still exist, who have no idea of one or more gods, and who have no words in their languages to express such an idea. The idea of a universal and beneficent Creator does not seem to arise in the mind of man, until he has been elevated by long-continued culture. He who is not content to look, like a savage, at the phenomena of nature as disconnected, cannot any longer believe that man is the work of a separate act of creation." Unquote! What do you say to that Mr. Darwin?

Darwin: That was just a logical argument! I tried to avoid involvement in Religious and political speculation. As a scientist, I avoided needless controversy. I stayed out of many of the political movements that adopted positions based on his theories. If I had to get involved in politics or broad Religious criticism it could not only have significantly undermined my credibility, but it could have put everlasting baggage on evolutionary theory as well. It can never be said that I was someone who believed in evolution because I was anti-Religious! It was my careful observation of the real world that changed my mind about religion, and I struggled with my Religious beliefs because I wanted to be a pious man. I simply knew that, based on the facts I observed, Biblical and theological claims could not be true, and this fact made me suffer. These facts as I saw it pained me! What if I was wrong? What if I was misled by the facts so clear before me? That I spend my whole life on a pipe-dream? It was not

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merely an apprehension of pure sense images, such as dreams and imaginations;! It was perceptive knowledge of sensible objects, the purpose of which is to form a particular judgment, such as "This rose is red... this light is beautiful". It was mathematical knowledge! I could apprehend the particular shape of the perceived rose! Then came the idea... Call it the Philosophical knowledge, which consists in the apprehension of the Ideas, as absolute, unconditioned and as eternal realities. You cannot understand the joy of the journey! It was no longer an opinion, because the things appear in this manner, but they could appear also in a different manner. I came to true understanding, because their object is the reality which is, and which cannot be otherwise!

Please... I should not get worked up like this... Please try and understand my position on religion as well. What about "strange freaks of nature", such as those people who are born with a rare trait that causes them to grow hair all over their head or body? Prior to my work people explained this by saying that it was either random or it was punishment from God. I argued that these traits were the result of undirected mutation and, critically, that they were inheritable. What of hideous birth defects such as these, are these the work of God or an intelligent designer? It is still commonly said by many people today that "everything happens for a reason." and that deformed people are put on earth by God to teach some kind of lesson. What lesson is there to be learned from these birth defects? These were the questions that drove me almost insane when struggling with my believe in God. Does God make us more tolerant by producing severe deformations or letting my dear Annie inherited my physical weakness?

Religious: We are not supposed to know everything, Mr Darwin. All that I know is that we are all imperfect. Do not blame God for everything that goes wrong in this world. It is human beings that distort, and corrupt the work of God. Could you foresee the effects of your theories on history? How your ideas of the stronger shall survive at the cost of others would bring about the destruction of mankind? Does this give us reason to kill people at war, because we believe we, as the strongest, must survive?

Darwin: It was never intended to corrupt man but to understand life.

Fool: Sadly... not all thought so! It led to racism!

Puppet: Yes! When the Nazis came to power they taught in school that Jesus was not a Jew because he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and that therefore it was appropriate to be a Christian and still hate Jews. I remember old Hitler saying..

(Projection of Hitler and Jews in concentration camps in WW2 etc. as voice over of Hitler making a hysterical, mad speech is heard as if coming over an old radio)

Hitler: "Everybody who has the right kind of feeling for his country is solemnly bound, each within his own denomination, to see to it that he is not constantly talking about the Will of God merely from the lips but that in actual fact he

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fulfils the Will of God and does not allow God's handiwork to be debased. For it was by the Will of God that men were made of a certain bodily shape, were given their natures and their faculties. Whoever destroys His work wages war against God's Creation and God's Will. The consequence of this racial purity, universally valid in Nature, is not only the sharp outward delimitation of the various races, but their uniform character in them. The fox is always a fox, the goose a goose, the tiger a tiger, The result of all racial crossing is therefore in brief always the following: One! Lowering of the level of the higher race; Two! The physical and intellectual regression and hence the beginning of a slowly but surely progressing sickness. Three! To bring about such a development is, then, nothing else but to sin against the will of the eternal creator. It was and it is Jews who bring the Negroes into the Rhineland, always with the same secret thought and clear aim of ruining the hated white race by the necessarily resulting bastardization, throwing it down from its cultural and political height, and himself rising to be its master. For a racially pure people who are conscious of its blood can never be enslaved by the Jew. In this world he will forever be master over bastards and bastards alone. Race, military training, leadership, religion! These are the four unshakable foundations of the new German National Socialist education" (*Projection out and light turn to normal on stage*)

Fool: Voila! *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler, 1925.

Darwin (*upset*): All of these ideas are in direct contradiction to evolutionary theory and to my views! The racist ideology of the Nazis did not have anything to do with me, but the ideology was in fact based on the very views that I had taught against and refuted with scientific evidence. How could I be so misunderstood? Racism or Nazism represented everything completely the opposite of my personal beliefs and the opposite of evolutionary theory. Contrary to the belief that there is such a thing as "fixed" or "distinct" races, I showed that there are no such clear distinctions between people at all!

Judge: Well as far as I see it – and note this down Scribe! -instead of being criticized as a racist, Mr. Darwin should rightfully be honoured as one of the leaders of opposition to racism, who showed through his careful study, and through his theory of evolution, that we are indeed all related and that the key to social success as a species lies in extending our cooperation, love, sympathy, and assistance to people of all races and all nations. If Mr. Darwin had any social message - that certainly, was it.

Darwin: Thank you. I never thought of it like that...

Religious: Whatever you say! Not you, not old Ancient Academicus or any of the others here tonight could give evidence of what gave life on this earth. Nature's powers could not do it alone! Neither can you explain Spirit! Man can be good or bad by his own free will. You can decide to disobey God and his Holy Spirit that is there for you as a free gift or you can ignore it and just hope – if you are unable to pray, that one day when we are dead and we know thing to the full that you were not misjudged! Then it will be a pity for God that you are lost souls.

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Ancienti Academicus: With my ancient and superior Greek knowledge I suggest we bring this argument to an end. How do you feel, Judge?

Judge: I feel like no Judge at all. I've been convinced by all that they firmly believe in their own dogmas and ideas about the whole affair. For the first time in my life I cannot Judge? What do you think Scribe, after summing up the main points?

Scribe: I'm afraid I got a bit lost at times. Especially when Mr. Darwin and Mr ReliGious got a bit hot under the collar...

Judge: So I'm a Judge who cannot Judge so I suggest we make the Fool the Judge.

Fool: Who me?

Judge: Yes why not? It was you who opened this box! A real Pandora's box! You can decide whether the bat will win or the little white angel! What do you others say?

ReliGious: As long as he is objective!

Ancienti Academicus: And honest...

Darwin: And fair.

Fool: I cannot dare to make the final Judgement alone! I'll say what I think and then they... *(He gestures in the direction of the audience)* Yes THEY can decide! Yes! That's what they came here for in any case! To Judge! They can vote by hand. What do you think Judge?

Judge: I **Judge** that's fair. Do you all agree?

(General consent from all)

Fool: As the wise Fool I listened to you all and hopefully came to a wise conclusion. But Mr. Judge, no-one must be allowed to interrupt me, as a Fool can easily be confused.

Judge: That's the rule then. Proceed, oh Clever and Wise Fool

Fool: All the wonderful stories about the beginning of life on earth and who created the world have one thing in common! We humans are just too stupid to comprehend the Miracle of Life. Mr. Ancienti Academicus, Mr. ReliGious, InCense, Africa Nus and **Aboriginal** are all correct. If we all agree that we do not know for certain what the power was that gave life as we know it, then we might move forward. As we all ascribe this power to different Deities according to our religious believes we at least agree on that. And if we all agree that humans gave us narratives to explain to our - not so intelligent forefathers and mothers - how the world was created, and avoid a

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fundamentalistic reading or understanding of all these beautiful stories from all religions, we ...

Religious: I object! STORIES? Fundamentalistic reading?

Judge: Please! Please, please! Surely you view all the other religion's revelations of the Creation of the World and the Origin of Life as narratives! No be fair! Did or did not Moses write Genesis for the exiled Jews in Babylon?

Puppet: Is Noah and the Ark also a narrative, Mr. Fool?

Judge: I tell you all to shut up! Answer Fool.

Fool: I do propose that Noah and the Ark is also a carefully written narrative warning the Jews to repent from Sin or God would punish them. Anyone in his sane mind can read the Bible like that. Can we not then also accept that Moses revelation on how God created the world in six days was also a narrative not bound to the way we see and experience TIME, as a phenomenon, in our simple minds today. Is time as we see it, the Creators time? We now, here find ourselves in no specific time in history. I, as the Wise Fool, conjured up a fictional time. Time here is not fixed in any particular historical period as time is scientific magic of great uncertainty. If I the simple Fool can play around with time how amused must the Creator be of our efforts? So we come to space. This space here is nowhere in particular – as we don't know for sure if we are alive or not. Neither do we know what Heaven looks like, or whether the characters in the play did make it there! So we find ourselves and all this action in limbo somewhere. Once again... how amused the Creator must be to watch us all – simple Fools, with but the vaguest idea of that much superior Creator who could put Spirit and Life in Man and All Living things on earth. Let us, as the first thinking beings look up to the Creation of space and Earth with the deepest respect, amazement and wonder at such power and superiority. And let all scientists like Mr Darwin here, continue to open up that wonders for us – so that we all become more convinced of our inferiority as humans in the search for the wonders of a Creator of much more superiority. And let them be allowed to do so without fear... As scientists they may lead us on false roads due to their own weaknesses. But as true scientists, I believe, that a true scientist will be the first to admit when the wrong road was taken. Because facts are facts that must be proved correct. I as Fool, believe that the book Ecclesiastics describes this freedom the Creator gives us and that all religions will agree on that: "God made man from beginning, and left him in the hand of his own

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counsel. He hath set water and fire before thee; stretch forth thine hand for which thou wilt. Before man is life and death, good and evil; that which he shall choose shall be given him." Fool of the Creator believes that humanity was created in order to spread good and His word to everyone but also allowed free will in His creation. I see the Creator as a benevolent Creator who imparts upon his grace, which allows the performance of all our deeds. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. It gives us all we need and it is up to humanity to utilize this grace and free will toward a greater good in the law of nature, the law of works, and the law of faith. The law of nature is what is given to every member of mankind, which is a certain law that must be obeyed for us to survive. Let us think about how we treat nature. And let us pray that the Creator is always with us, also at the End as at the Beginning of the greatest Miracle of All... Life.

Puppet: Whoa!

Fool: I propose, dear Judge that we now vote on the principle question. Can it be possible for a religious person to believe in the value of science as to clarify the Miracles of Nature? And can it be possible for a scientist to believe the Mysterious wonders of the Creator?

Judge: Hey Lighting operator! Give us lights on dim. Soundman, give us some music! Scribe, count the hands! All in favour of the idea that religion and science cannot be reconciled, up with your hands!

(Scribe counts the hands in audience. Scribe gives the answer. Depending on votes the text must be adapted)

Judge: And the result is...? Good! Here comes the second question! Hands up for Fool's suggestion! Can a scientist, be a Believer in the power and existence of the Creator? Hands up for yea!

(Scribe counts the hands in audience. Scribe gives the answer)

Judge: And the result is...? Mr Darwin... it seems that the fact is under the general public that your ideas on Evolution and Natural Selection tonight is (not) reconcilable with religion! Now by the powers invested in me, I declare this

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meeting over till we shall tackle this discussion again in the press and in hallways, offices, church meetings, around barbeques and in bars! Dismissed!

(All except Fool and his Puppet leave the stage. He sings his song to the Puppet as he takes the Bat and Angle from the box and dances slowly off stage. It is a sad song in the style of Enya)

Fool *(speaks)*: My dear Puppet... my only friend...

(He sings) We have seen the death of unknown worlds and stars just born anew...

We have swum forgotten oceans... unknown to man, just me and you...

We have heard the songs of ancient birds in dusty skies...

Pressed our ears to dying cries of creatures in between

In riverbeds that dried, unseen...

Disaster struck... piercing lighting from the sun...

All was lost that had just begun.

(More happy) But!

We have tasted fruits like the Aqua-matoerie-marine...

Seen the monstrous Paraquala-maratakardien...

Danced all night to the Papa-marara-washa-masheen ...

Had some fun in the Skya-maswaaiya-funny-sjebeen...

And all those things that really had been,

But sadly yes! So sadly yes, yet been unseen, believe it or not...
by them...

Who seek and scheme and seem...to know it all.

Good Night!

(He takes a bow and leaves the stage. Music takes over and finis)

Don't Shoot the Messenger was completed on 11/2/2009 at 23:24 – a day before it was intended to be handed in at the NAC so that funds could be requested for the production of the play in 2009. Thanks to God this happened, as a play on paper is as dead as a corpse in a coffin. The first performance of the play took place in the Wynand Mouton Theatre on the Free State University campus on 25 March 2009 under the direction of the playwright with a cast of 3rd year students.

This has been the most difficult play I ever wrote. I had to do so much research on Darwin and philosophy during my holiday that I neglected my wife and family- a thing I regret! Thank you for understanding! Let anyone again say that writing a play, that is not based on imagination alone, is not research, let them die in their own ignorance of self-importance of reporting

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on creative artist's work. As they do not have the God-given talent of creating art, we pity them and thank God for his Grace bestowed to my fellow artists for being able to do that.

As it is not the standard to quote directly in a play-text I humbly mention those scientists and researchers who's work contributed to ideas expressed in this text-- most of all to Darwin's letters and his accounts of his Voyage on the Beagle. I owe much to the excellent work of various researchers like the following on whose publications I could rely for ideas for this script.

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In Soli Deo.



Fool.