From so simple a beginning

I am neither a Darwinian demagogue, nor an Intelligent Design orator. But like any other scientist, I take as common sense Charles Darwin's observation: "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Nevertheless, a recent news article from *Nature*, "South Korea surrenders to creationist demands," has ignited fresh debate. Although the article simply reports on the scientific world's concern about the process of deleting some examples of evolution from South Korean high school textbooks, members of the public are awkwardly arguing with each other on the subject of evolution, based on their religious faith or scientific belief.

At this moment, let us reflect on the literature of one of the world's preeminent biologists, Edward O. Wilson, who is a professor emeritus at Harvard University. In his book *From So Simple a Beginning*, he explains why the theory of evolution remains under such strong dispute 150 years after it was first proposed. He notes, "The answer is simply that the Darwinian revolution, even more than the Copernican revolution, challenges the prehistoric and still-regnant self-image of humanity." Furthermore, he classifies the major global ideologies into three opposing perspectives on the human condition. The dominant one regards the human as a creation of God, based on the monotheistic religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The second view is political behaviorism, rooted in Marx-

ism. The last one is the scientific view. Regarding the scientific perspective, he tells us, "It considers humanity to be a biological species that evolved over millions of years in a biological world, acquiring unprecedented intelligence yet still guided by complex inherited emotions and biased channels of learning."

How can we find a logical description of human nature in this era? Depending on God-centered religion or atheistic communism? The only possible approach is by the genuine work of sincere scientists. Therefore, we can fully comprehend and respect the timely concern of *Nature*.

And finally, it seems fitting to contemplate all this in the light of the very last sentence of *The Origin of Species*: "There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved."

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