THE LAWS OF EVOLUTION AND THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

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Sandford, Christopher. “We’ve Been Reading Charles Darwin All Wrong.” *AmericaMagazine*.*org*. 17 Feb. 2022. 22 Feb. 2022. Web.

I accept evolution but believe there is an intelligence that designed it. I believe that that was Charles Darwin’s understanding as well, since he opens *On the Origin of Species* (1859) with a quotation from William Whewell: “events are brought about not by insulated interpositions of Divine power, exerted in each particular case, but by the establishment of general laws.” Exactly: *somebody* established the laws. Darwin himself wrote, “It seems to me absurd to doubt that a man may be an ardent theist and also an evolutionist.” (Qtd. in Sandford)

Part of the problem for materialists (those who deny that anything exists beyond the material) is that they tend not to accept the *real* existence of laws. They tend to think that only three-dimensional objects exist. One reason for their belief is the fact that “real” is from Latin *res*, which means “thing”; hence the prejudice that only things are “real.” Another reason is the fact that things are immediately perceptible to the senses, whereas laws are not. Laws are only detectible indirectly; we must infer them from things’ effects.

But clearly laws exist just as *really* as things. The law of gravity, for instance; the law that water boils at 212° Fahrenheit; and so on.

Well, what about the laws of evolution? E.g., genetic mutation followed by natural selection? Even if one posits (as materialists do) that there is no divine intervention in the historical process of evolution, the question remains: where do the laws of evolution come from? Why are they the way they are? Just as one may reasonably ask, “Why do *things* exist?” so one may reasonably ask, “Why do *laws* exist?” In both cases, a reasonable answer (in my opinion, the *most* reasonable answer) is God: an intelligence created them.