

"Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists." Review.

Post by "Daniel" of April 2, 2019 at 12:31 PM

LUCRETIUS, THE FIRST DARWINIAN.

"...The entire materialist account of human nature, society, morality and religion, which forms the stream of modernity flowing toward its culmination in Darwin, is found clearly and succinctly stated in Lucretius. Lucretius seems so modern because we are so Lucretian..."

"...For anyone even mildly familiar with modern evolutionary theory this is a remarkable passage (De Rerum Natura, 5.837-77)..."

(1) Random variation at the atomic level brings about a diversity of creatures at the level of species.

(2) Monsters (later called monstrosities by Darwin) do not survive because they cannot defend themselves, nor provide sustenance, nor procreate by the 'ways of Venus.'

(3) Whatever animals have survived must have been the most fit, having greater cunning, courage or quickness (or greater utility to human beings), and so are 'able by procreation to forge out the chain of the generations.'

(4) Like the monsters, those species that are less fit do not survive, for they 'lay at the mercy of others for prey and profit...until nature brought that kind to destruction,' that is, extinction..."