

galaxies, stars, planets, and other components of the physical universe. It provides an answer to the rise of the various kinds of living things on the earth, in an interdependent (symbiotic) chain of relationships among its flora and fauna. And it provides an answer to the rise of humans, with their tool-manufacturing ability, their intelligence, their development of culture, their building of structures, their development and use of language, and their morality and religion.

The natural evolutionistic view has no answer to the question of the origin of the matter-energy complex. It either says that no answer is possible, or asserts (with no evidence) that matter-energy existed forever, or reluctantly yields the floor to metaphysics! To the question of the origin of the structured universe, it asserts that the forces which have brought about the present ordered configuration of the universe have arisen randomly, have operated randomly, and have produced, not disorganization and chaos, but organization and order! To the question of the origin of life, it asserts that an extraordinarily complex sequence of contingently-related physical and chemical events, arising randomly and operating randomly, produced a few very simple forms of biological organization which, by randomly operating events and processes, have developed into all the biological organisms living today. And to the question of the origin of humans, it asserts that a gradual sequence of random biological events and processes led to the development of mammals, then primates, then apes, then near-apes, then ape-men, and then humans; and that man's intelligence, languaging ability, culture, morality, and religion are also products of a random development of biological events and processes.

As a hypothesis, the natural evolutionist view has some things to be said in its favor, and some things to be said in its disfavor. In its favor, it is able to rationalize large bodies of scientific data, to provide a unifying principle among the various scientific disciplines, and to demonstrate its explanatory power and "fit" on lower levels of the classification of living things (a few families, some genera, some species, most sub-species, varieties, races, and breeds or strains). In its disfavor, it is unable to provide answers to the crucial questions of ultimate origins; to provide a mechanism by which biological evolution operates (the most recent explanation, "punctuated equilibrium," is not really an explanation, but a *description* of what the fossil record reveals, *given* the evolutionary hypothesis); it is unable to explain how evolution occurred at higher levels of classification (most species, genera, and families; all orders, classes,