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Preface

Until the publication of this book, intelligence has been a concept of which its true nature has remained hidden. In silent acknowledgement of its absent essence, intelligence has been segmented. Skills, such as reading and writing, can be measured and abilities tested. This book explains in detail what intelligence is. In doing so it avoids discussions on segmented tasks; instead the focus is firmly on the concept 'intelligence'. To explain intelligence it would have made little or no sense to provide it in definition form. The only way intelligence can be grasped is by illustrating its development. More importantly, the concept intelligence is best illustrated from a comparative view — by comparing the difference between animal intelligence and human intelligence; this leads to a sound and unambiguous understanding of the nature of intelligence.

Intelligence is a fundamental aspect of life and as such evolution of life is addressed in detail and explained from a previously unrealised perspective. The process of evolution and the development of intelligence I have presented rest on known and well-established facts; however the perspectives offered on these specifics are novel. I have on many occasions discarded the virtues of elegance, fashion and style in the interest of clarity and simplicity. In my opinion, shortening some explanations could confuse and lead to misunderstandings. To make things clearer therefore, I have at times repeated myself.

The concepts and perspectives of life, evolution and intelligence I visualised during my postgraduate year of psychology. Four and a half years after I initially perceived these concepts, I have managed to complete this book by juggling family, work and house

renovations. I would describe the journey as enlightening but one during which I experienced a sense of profound loneliness. It was as if I lived in two worlds; the content of this book was a world that only I could see and live in for most of the time. Nevertheless the completion of this book is a personal triumph, which I could not have achieved without friends and family who were intrigued and interested, and actively provided support.

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Chapter One

Introduction

Why this book was written

The contents of this book are far removed from mainstream ideas. For this reason some explanatory notes are appropriate. How does one present an entirely new and detailed model of evolution, and explain the essence of intelligence? Additionally, how does one revise and correct the current perspective that the difference between animal and human intelligence is a matter of degree? In fact this book will show that the difference between animal and human intelligence is actually of kind. As if this isn't enough, this book explains how organisms change during the course of evolution and why we, humans, physically look and behave the way we do.

The claims that I am making are very challenging ones and they will change our understanding of intelligence, evolution, life, behaviour and even the concepts of birth and death, forever. These issues are addressed together because they are interrelated. It would be impossible to explain one of these matters, for instance animal intelligence, without explaining evolution and human intelligence. The manner in which I perceived these new concepts of intelligence, evolution and behaviour, was quite unintentional. In my postgraduate year in psychology I was introduced to the topic of neophobia; reading the detail of these studies changed my views on numerous previously learnt facts and concepts.

In my experience the subconscious has worked in the background to solve some intractable problems. For example when I commenced my psychology degree, I started in the middle of the

year, in the second semester. In the second semester the psychology subject was to introduce the students to research and as such we did a little experiment, collected data, read relevant journal articles and wrote a basic psychology laboratory report. The research topic that I faced was the matter of handedness. There is no clear explanation why most people are right-handed, ten percent left-handed and few ambidextrous. After I had collected my data, and read the current and relevant journal articles, I was ready to write my laboratory report, basically rewriting, in the format of a psychology report, what the leading researchers had published.

I had severe difficulty with this rather simple exercise because the explanations for handedness in the journal articles didn't make any sense to me. I sat defeated, staring at the two lines that I had written, until in a flash I saw in my mind specific sections of the journal articles highlighted; these corresponded to the accepted data and to the data that I had collected. What stood out was that I became aware of one misconception that directed the research in handedness always in one direction. After that an entirely different explanation for handedness presents itself.

I had a similar experience when reading the journal articles on neophobia. Only on this occasion the areas in which my perspectives changed were vast and the details numerous. It was as if half of my mind was changing the model of evolution, intelligence and social behaviour to accommodate the information that I was reading on neophobia. This is a strange awareness. My experience was as if one part of my mind was focused on the literature, whilst another part was off changing previously learnt information to make it fit with the information that I was taking in. I would not describe my mind as racing but for days I was unable to sleep, I just sat in a chair until the early hours of the morning, staring into space whilst my mind did all the running around. I was not 'thinking' as such, rather it

would be more accurate to describe it as if I were watching a PowerPoint presentation, where all the concepts and perspectives that I had learnt, could be regarded as billboards. Some of these billboards remained the same, whilst others turned over or turned upside down or back to front. As the billboards changed the whole picture changed. The striking feature of these changing perceptions was that most of the time issues that were regarded as sticking points now fitted well from a logical point of view.

It is only after these insights that I am able to address the topics at hand. However, the manner in which I perceive these insights is a problem for me. Since key issues trigger a cascade of change in my perspectives, I assume that they do also for other people. As such I tend to write, perhaps too briefly, providing only bits and pieces of information, assuming that the remainder is obvious to the reader.

During my studies I had to write an assignment on environmental psychology. I did so by providing hints rather than detail, believing that by offering only snippets of information my lecturer would see new enlightening concepts. To my disappointment, my assignment was returned with a long line arrow accompanied by the words, "How do you get from here to there?" It is to prevent these communication misunderstandings from recurring, that I have at times provided a lot of detail to explain some issues.

Another reason I have explained where the drive to write this book originated is when I started to collect ground information on the topic of evolution I found that views are clearly divided. The division is easily described: Creationists opposing Darwinists. Because the barriers of these two different points of view are so fiercely defended I need to make clear that I do not belong to a particular side. I have no underlying motivation to write this book, other than the way I personally view evolution, intelligence and behaviour and my wish to share this with others. I do believe, however, and you will see

why when you read this book, that to uncover the truth about anything, it is important to be unbiased.

A formidable task

To challenge the current perspectives of evolution, intelligence and behaviour, I have attempted to stay with commonly known issues. The history provided in the second chapter only highlights issues that have been tossed about — some for centuries. One of the main themes in this book is that I strongly challenge Darwin's model of evolution. Those who are unaware of the intricacies of Darwin's model need not be concerned because I explain it in some detail. Although I challenge Darwin's views, I do not intend any disrespect as it was not long ago that I, too, belonged to the ranks of Darwinists.

It is not an easy task to dispel a long-held perspective. Darwin's model of evolution stood the test of time, and after 150 years has become part of society's fabric. Although ingrained, widely disseminated and taught at all educational levels, these matters alone do not make Darwin's model of evolution right. Here I challenge Darwinism with a model of evolution that is applicable to the whole of evolution in its journey from the single cell to humans.

The new model of evolution is presented in Chapters Two to Four. In Chapter Two I provide a basic overview of Darwinism and lay the foundations of the new model of evolution. In Chapter Three I deal with the structure of how life presents, but the main focus is on animal intelligence. In Chapter Four I explain human intelligence and in the final parts provide an overview of the presentation of life, in complete contrast to Darwinism.

Anyone with some imagination can conjure up a model of evolution. This is simply because in evolution there are numerous facets. By ignoring some and highlighting others, anyone can make a plau-

sible argument on how organisms developed over time. For this reason in Chapters Five to Eight I have used established research findings on biology, life span development research and animal behavioural studies, and have integrated credible findings in support of the new evolution model.

In Chapter Nine I have gone beyond the present, and used the model to look at what is to come. The future is discussed from a holistic perspective but also on a personal level. Throughout this book I have remained factual, and to the best of my knowledge and belief have presented the issues honestly; I have not altered, changed or modified any literature that I relied on.