

1.

Revolution

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EXT. GARDEN - DAY

CHARLES DARWIN *is working in his garden when GALILEO emerges from behind a bush.*

DARWIN Good morning.

GALILEO Morning.

DARWIN Beautiful day.

GALILEO The wonder of God's creation.

DARWIN And the results of natural selection.

GALILEO What's that?

DARWIN Oh, it's an idea I had.

GALILEO A theory?

DARWIN Yes.

GALILEO A scientific theory?

DARWIN If you must know.

GALILEO Oh, I must. Explain it to me.

DARWIN Are you a biologist?

GALILEO An astronomer.

DARWIN Oh.

GALILEO What do you mean, Oh?

DARWIN To think like a biologist you need to be able to imagine yourself as an insect.

GALILEO That's alright, to think like an astronomer you need to be able to imagine yourself as an uncontrollable explosion of gas and dust.

DARWIN I sometimes feel like that in the mornings.

GALILEO Yes, as you get older.

DARWIN So, you're an insect.

GALILEO OK.

DARWIN Well?

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GALILEO Well I don't actually have to make like an insect do I?

DARWIN Of course.

GALILEO What like buzzing and (he flaps his arms).

DARWIN This is an absolutely radical scientific theory.

GALILEO So as usual it starts in the realm of the ridiculous.

DARWIN An insect then.

GALILEO *who screws up his face and gives an understated buzz.*

DARWIN Which of these plants do you think you would pollinate?

GALILEO Well it's winter so there aren't any plants to pollinate.

DARWIN Mr Smarty pants gardener. Imagine.

GALILEO I see a flaw in your theory already.

DARWIN What?

GALILEO You haven't told me what kind of insect I am.

DARWIN Quite right.

GALILEO I mean, am I a scent seeking insect, or a colour loving insect or do I favour plants from which I can gain a clear and uninterrupted view of the night sky?

DARWIN You are the kind of insect your environment has naturally selected you to be.

GALILEO A star-gazing insect.

DARWIN Sure.

GALILEO So I buzz around looking to pollinate the tallest flower.

DARWIN And thus naturally select tallness in each new generation of the plant.

GALILEO Well. That seems logical enough.

DARWIN You think?

GALILEO It seems to be a remarkably inventive deduction based on careful observation.

DARWIN And then we come to human beings.

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GALILEO Ah.

DARWIN Whom I theorized to be a naturally selected descendant.

GALILEO Of what?

DARWIN Of...(he scratches himself and makes like a monkey).

GALILEO *watches, confused. Then he laughs.*

GALILEO Oh, bravo. Yes, bravo. Very witty.

DARWIN Witty?

GALILEO A naturally selected descendant of apes?

DARWIN That's right.

GALILEO Oh, hilarious. Quite beyond the realm of possibility.

DARWIN But I really think we are.

GALILEO Oh, you do not.

DARWIN Sir, I do.

GALILEO Man, descended from apes?

DARWIN Naturally selected.

Pause.

GALILEO A scent-seeking, tree-top seeking insect is one thing. It means that insects with a very small advantage of some kind, or plants with a very small variation of some kind will go on living and breeding.

DARWIN Survival of the fittest.

GALILEO Yes.

DARWIN Thank you.

GALILEO But humans descended from apes is Insanity. And blasphemy.

DARWIN Like the earth going around the sun.

Pause.

GALILEO It is like saying that natural selection can turn an insect into an A30 airbus.

DARWIN A what?

5.

They look up as a plane passes over.

GALILEO An airborne vehicle used to transport people around the globe.

DARWIN I don't know of such perambulators.

GALILEO It's like saying that natural selection can turn a tree into a skyscraper.

DARWIN *looks puzzled.* GALILEO *gestures toward the city.*

GALILEO An elevated building used to house contemporary officeworkers.

DARWIN I still don't...

GALILEO Your theory, if I am correct, only accounts for nature being able to advantage or disadvantage certain inherent characteristics.

DARWIN Yes, but the environment might cause dormant characteristics to come to prominence.

GALILEO But not conceptual thinking and deductive reasoning.

DARWIN Apes can use tools.

GALILEO They can use a twig to get ants out of an ants nest. They can't post blogs online about quantum theory.

Pause.

GALILEO What is your name, Sir?

DARWIN I am Charles Darwin, Sir and I have published my theories as 'Origin of Species' and 'The Descent of Man'.

GALILEO And I am Galileo Galilei. The Copernican who asserted the revolution of this earth on which we stand.

DARWIN Your findings brought you into conflict with the religious authorities of your day.

GALILEO I understand that Pope John Paul II conceded that the earth was not stationary in 1992.

DARWIN So, three centuries to say I told you so.

GALILEO Yes.

DARWIN (Dejectedly) In evolutionary terms that's...(clicks his fingers) Almost nothing. (Pause) Maybe I should just stick to gardening.

GALILEO Nah. You're got to have a stab don't you?

6.

DARWIN Do you?

GALILEO Sure. Or I could put out your eyes.

GALILEO *grabs DARWIN and digs his fingers underneath his eye sockets. They struggle.*

GALILEO Well?

DARWIN *pushes him off.*

GALILEO It's our job to explain what we see and hear and smell and taste and touch.

DARWIN But. They don't always like that.

GALILEO Tough.

DARWIN Tough. That's what you say to four centuries of religious persecution and interference?

GALILEO Sure. Cheer up. It's a beautiful day.

DARWIN The wonder of God's creation.

GALILEO And the results of natural selection.