

Evolution 101

Lesson 9

A pig makes a monkey out of the scientists. The mistakes and fakes of anthropology do not stop with Piltdown man by any means. In 1922 a tooth was discovered in Pliocene strata in Nebraska. Henry Fairfield Osborn, head of the American Museum of Natural History, examined it and determined that it belonged to a missing link and that it afforded *“evi-dence of man's descent from ape. It was duly named Hesperopithecus (western ape) and called the ape-man of the Western World.”*

With the American Museum behind it, Hesperopithecus (Nebraska Man) fired Elliot Smith to write in his **Evolution of Man**, *“this tooth . . . is regarded by the American paleon-tologists as a hith-erto unknown primate . . . Its status had been determined by,”* he said, *“the most competent authorities on the specific characters of fossilized mam-malian teeth, Professor Osborn and Drs. Matthew and Gregory.”*

Elliot Smith induced the illustrated **London News** (June 24, 1922) to pub-lish a double spread reconstruction (shown above) of a whole family of Hesperopithecus sufficiently brutish and apelike to be a missing link all on the basis of this one molar.

William Jennings Bryan, Senator from Nebraska and counsel for the prosecution at the famous Scopes Monkey Trial, was chided in the press and by court watchers about this mis-sing link from his own state! What happened to Hesperopithecus? It was subsequently established that the tooth belonged to a peccary, *a wild pig!*

HANKY PANKY IN PEKING

Consider also the pithecanthropine skulls collected in China at the Choukoutien site. All of them have dis-appeared in some mysterious, unex-plained manner. One story has it that the skulls were placed on an American ship during World War II to save them from the invading Japanese army and that the ship sank. Some casts exist which were supposedly made from these original Sinanthropus (Peking Man) specimens.

However, it is quite apparent that these casts were made from sculptures of what the artist believed the creature to be. Eyewitness descriptions of these missing skulls differ in several ways from the models. At best, these models can be considered no more than hearsay evidence. Several authorities agree that every one of the specimens had been killed by hunters and eaten. Who was the hunter?

In light of the 2,000 or so shaped stones with soot on one side and the enormous heaps of ashes at the site covering thousands of square yards, Peking Man was a monkey-like creature hunted and eaten by true men who appeared to be working in a lime quarrying and burning industry.

PSEUDO SCIENCE IN JAVA

By straining credulity and with-holding evidence, Eugene Dubois found Java Man, his version of the so-called missing link between man and monkey. But his find is called into question also because it appears that a human femur (thigh bone) was joined by Dubois with almost the whole skullcap of some ape-like creature. The pieces were found 50 feet apart!

In addition, Mr. Dubois found human skulls in similar strata (the Wadjak skulls) but withheld this information for 30 years because they were human and too complete and would “confuse” the issue. Before his death, even Mr. Dubois called his find a giant gibbon.

PUSILLANIMOUS

PUSSYFOOTING!

In his book, **Mankind Evolving**, Theodosius Dobzhansky attacks those critics who claim that evolutionists believe men evolved from apes or monkeys. In fact, he says that anti-evolutionists started the nasty rumor. Quoting: *“To make Darwin's theory as shocking as possible the proposition ‘man and apes have descended from common ancestors’ was garbled into ‘man has descended from the apes.’ This, of course, is obvious nonsense, since*

man's remote ancestors could not have descended from animals, which are our contemporaries. ”

George Gaylord Simpson, a foremost evolutionist, in hot reply to such statements, says in **Science**: *“On this subject, by the way, there has been too much pussyfooting. Apologists emphasize that man cannot be a descendant of any living ape, a statement that is obvious to the verge of imbecility—and go on to state or imply that man is not really descended from an ape or monkey at all, but from an earlier common ancestor. In fact, that earlier ancestor would certainly be called an ape or monkey in popular speech by anyone who saw it. Since the terms ape and monkey are defined by popular usage, man's ancestors were apes or monkeys (or successively both). It is pusillan-*imous* [cowardly] if not dishonest for an informed investigator to say otherwise.”*

So many evolutionists bristle when their patron saint, Charles Darwin, is quoted as saying that man descended from a monkey. But Darwin didn't monkey around. From his **Descent of Man** (Ch. 6) we read, *“And as man from a genealogical point of view belongs to the Catarrhine or Old World stock, we must conclude, how-ever much the conclusion may revolt our pride, that our early progenitors would have been thus designated.”*

In the same chapter he continues, *“The Simiadae then branched off into two great stems, the New World and Old World monkeys; and from the latter, at a remote period, Man, the wonder and glory of the Universe proceeded.”*

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