

Yaratılışçı İlerleyiş Devam Edecek



Guardian Medya grubunun Pazar günleri haftalık gazete olarak bastığı *The Observer*, 2 Kasım 2008 tarihinde *Yaratılış Atlası*'na dikkat çeken bir habere yer verdi. Yarım milyon tirajlı gazetede söz konusu haber, "**Dikkat Edin - Yaratılışçı İlerleyiş Devam Edecek**" başlığı ile yer aldı. Haberde Yaratılış inancının yayılması, *Yaratılış Atlası*'nın sebep olduğu bir gelişme olarak aktarıldı. Darwinistler hiç hesaba katmadıkları bir yönden yıkıcı bir darbe alınca, kendilerince çözümünü peşi sıra uyguladıkları yasaklarda aramaya başladılar. Haberde bu sefer de evrime inanmayan Müslüman öğrencilerin İngiltere'de üniversitelerden uzaklaştırılacakları bildirildi:

... Fikirler ölmez, yayılırlar ve sessizleşirler. **Yaratılışçılık** Amerika'da geri adım atmış olabilir, ama.. [Türkiye'deki] gibi **her yerde yeşermeye başlamış olabilir**... Bolca resimlendirilmiş olan *Yaratılış Atlası* evrimin hiç olmadığını ileri sürmek için, 500 sayfasında fosilleri bugünkü mevcut türlerle karşılaştırıyor... **Geçen sene Avrupa Konseyi Yahya'nın Fransa, Belçika, İspanya ve İsviçre'deki okulları da hedeflediği ikazında bulundu. İngiltere'de akademisyenler özellikle Müslüman fen öğrencilerini okuldan atmayı konuşuyorlar**... Bu konuda yaygara koparmıyorlar, ama çok sessiz bir şekilde "din, öğrencilerin evrimi kabul etmelerini engelliyorsa, bu öğrencilerin üniversitede kalmaları için bir anlam yok" diyorlar.

Bu satırların ardından şunu sormak gereklidir: Bu paniğin sebebi nedir? *Yaratılış Atlası* Darwinistleri neden bu denli dehşete kaptırmıştır? Bu kadar yasağın, tedbirin sebebi nedir? Evrim neden herhangi bir teori gibi tartışılmamaktadır? Kendilerini demokrasi, fikir özgürlüğü, çoğulculuk gibi konularda örnek gösteren Avrupa ülkeleri, neden konu Yaratılış olunca yasağcı bir çizgi benimsemektedirler? İşte bu soruların cevabı bize evrim teorisinin ideolojik kaygılarla korunduğunu; ancak devletlerin himayesinde ayakta durabilecek kadar çürük temeller üzerine kurulu bir teori olduğunu göstermektedir. Ancak Darwinistlerin hesaba katmadıkları, yasağ ve baskıların, insanların gerçeği bulmalarını hızlandıran etkenler olmasıdır. Nitekim *Yaratılış Atlası*'nın yasaklanması, bu kitabın milyonlarca kişi tarafından okunmasına ve gerçeklerin hızlı bir şekilde duyurulmasına vesile olmuştur. Dolayısıyla yasağ politikası, Darwinizm'in çöküşüne sadece daha da ivme kazandıracaktır.



Nick Cohen

Beware – creationism's march will go on

The idea of intelligent fundamentalists, like the theory of intelligent design, does not stand up to 30 seconds' scrutiny. I must, nevertheless, give credit to American evangelicals for showing belated glimmerings of sense. After decades of blindly endorsing evangelical politicians from the born-again Carter to the been-again Bush, they at last appear ready to look for more than religious dogma in a candidate.

Richard Cizik, the Washington representative of the National Association of Evangelicals, has all but backed Obama. 'I'm a conservative, but it doesn't mean I'm going to vote that way,' he announced. 'I could disagree with Obama, and do, on same-sex marriage and abortion, but that doesn't mean I'll vote against him.'

Cizik has been criticised by the American conservative press, but his abandonment of faith in the Republican party may be a sign of a wider disillusionment. Foreigners, who bought Michael Moore's cartoon version of America as a land dominated by quasi-fascist bigots, may not understand why, but Christian conservatives have good reason to feel cheated.

The Republicans not only took their votes and left them with jobs that may vanish and bosses the hawks may repress, but failed to deliver the conservative counter-revolution they promised. After eight years of Bush, abortion is still legal and the gay marriage movement is marching on. The congregations of Cizik's and other churches have every right to shrug their shoulders and vote Obama or give up on politics and stay at home. Evelyn Waugh complained in 1951 that the British Conservative party had 'never put the



Adnan Oktar, alias Harun Yahya, author of the Atlas of Creation.

Photograph by Stefano Ferrando

clock back by a single second'. We will have to wait until the votes are in, but American evangelicals could say the same about today's Republicans.

The fate of the creationists shows why. Bush whipped up the futile passions of his supporters by encouraging schools to balance the teaching of the theory of evolution with the theory of 'intelligent design', which is nothing more than creationism dressed up in the language of pseudo-science to avoid America's prohibition on religion in the classroom.

Creationists in Dover, Pennsylvania, took him at his word. With the shameful, but I suppose inevitable, support of

an English academic postmodernist, one Steve Fuller of Warwick University, they argued that truth was relative. Teachers should not discriminate between evidence and superstition, but tell children that it was as reasonable to believe that a god-like intelligence designed life as to think that species evolved through undirected natural selection.

A Republican in the White House did them no good. In September 2005, Judge John E. Jones ruled that they were trying to slip the book of Genesis into science classes and came down against them. Three years on from their defeat, and with the Democrats certain to dominate Washington, the hopes of the intelligent design movement appear dead.

But ideas do not die, they spread and mutate. Creationism might be on the back foot in America, but it is blossoming elsewhere as Richard Dawkins discovered when Turkish readers told him they could no longer access his website.

Dawkins's offence was to satirise Harun Yahya, the pen name of Adnan Oktar, the front man for a wealthy Islamic publishing house. Its lavishly illustrated Atlas of Creation spends 500 pages comparing fossils with present-day species to argue that evolution never took place. Dawkins looked at a picture of an ancient fossilised eel and a picture of what Yahya claimed was a modern eel and pointed out that it was in fact a sea snake.

Yahya went on to represent the immutability of God's creation by claiming that a fossilised insect had survived unchanged for millions of years. Unfortunately, the modern version of the caddis fly Yahya chose to illustrate his point was not a fly at all, but a steel fish-hook with a fake insect on top to lure fish on to the line.

Yahya is a joke, but few Turks are laughing. *Index on Censorship* reported last week that the Turkish courts and the Islamist government were banning Turks from accessing YouTube and the hosting sites Blogger and WordPress for various moral and political reasons as well as for *Richard Dawkins* net. When Blainet, a Turkish human rights group, published a critical piece, Yahya told its journalists: 'This is an insulting article, take it off the internet or we will have you banned like Richard Dawkins.'

'On the one hand, fundamentalists say all they want is a debate,' said Padraig Reilly of *Index*. 'But as soon as they get power, they close debate down.'

Westerners say that Yahya reminds them of American creationists. The link is more solid than they know. In *Atlas of*

Creation, Yahya acknowledges his debt to Duane Gish from the Institute for Creation Research in Texas. Gish has spent years arguing that the fossil record contains no evidence of species evolving and blustering whenever a palaeontologist contradicted him. As a Muslim, Yahya did not need to accept the institute's Protestant fundamentalist 'young-Earth' doctrine – the notion that God made the world in 4004BC or thereabouts. But he happily borrowed Gish's equally idiotic delusion that today's species cannot have evolved and must therefore be identical to their ancestors of tens or hundreds of millions of years ago.

Vast sums of probably Saudi money are fuelling the move of creationism across the Atlantic. In Turkey and the Middle East, poor schools are grateful for Yahya's free books and scientists are becoming frightened of speaking out. Last year, the Council of Europe warned that Yahya was also targeting schools in France, Belgium, Spain and Switzerland. In Britain, academics talk of expelling mainly Muslim science students. They do not make a fuss about it in case post-modernist leftists in the mould of Steve Fuller accuse them of religious discrimination, but say, very quietly, that if evolution stops their students accepting evolution, there is no point in them staying at university.

Maybe in a generation's time, Americans will patronise Europeans as quasi-fascist bigots. If we are to avoid their condescension, we must accept that creationism will not go down with the American conservative movement. It is evolving and its opponents must evolve, too, if they want to defeat it.

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