

PREFACE

A doctrine of intelligent design through evolution is not going to find many friends. It is destined to encounter opposition on all sides. Among scientists the backlog of evolution will have little patience for intelligent design. Among religionists, many who form intelligent design have their doubts about evolution. In the general public's mind there is a diametrical opposition between evolution and intelligent design: one excludes the other.

This book will argue that this view of the matter is not correct, and that in actuality one can regard evolution itself as a pathway to intelligent design. We would do well to go beyond *The Origin of Species* and—taking as our guide such works as W. Wentworth's Thomson's *On growth and Form* acknowledging that evolutionary adaptation can result in solutions of a sort that intelligence could readily ratify. Accordingly, what the present book seeks is a naturalization of Intelligent Design that sees such design as itself the result of natural and evolutionary processes.

And where does this leave theology? It will be argued that it is left untouched on the sidelines. With intelligently oriented change seen as the result of natural process, it need not be viewed as a theological product. But on the other hand, with design or "fact of life" so to speak, nothing prevents theology from seeing evolution as an acceptable process in a divinely ordained world-order. So insofar as intelligent design is a battlefield between science and religion, the conflict has to be seen as terminating in a draw.

To argue this position may be espousing a lost cause. But, as long experience shows, this is not necessarily a fatal defect.

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