

THE PRIMORDIAL OCEANS BUBBLED AND OOEZED. THE CHEMISTRY OF LIFE WAS UNWITTINGLY FORMING.

COMPLICATED MOLECULES TWISTED INTO EXISTENCE AND BEGAN REPLICATING.


SOME BROKE FREE FROM THE RIGID CRYSTAL LATTICE, FLOODING THE WARM, VIOLENT OCEANS.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL MOLECULAR REPLICATORS WERE CAUGHT IN BUBBLES, WHICH FORMED SEMI-RIGID PROTEIN SHEATHS.

THESE PROKARYOTES WERE PRIMITIVE, BUT OFFERED THE BEST CHANCE FOR THE REPLICATORS TO SURVIVE.

THEY BECAME MORE COMPLEX OVER TIME, ENSHRINING THEIR REPLICATING MOLECULES WITHIN A NUCLEUS.

SOME BANDED TOGETHER TO FORM COOPERATIVE CLUSTERS, FORMING SUPER ORGANISMS OUT OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL CELLULAR LIVES.



CELL CLUSTERS
SPECIALIZED IN
CERTAIN ROLES
WITH OTHER CELLS,
FORMING ORGANS
WHICH MADE UP A
VARIETY OF
DISTINCT
ORGANISMS.


SOON, THE
REPLICATION OF GENETIC
MOLECULES WAS THE
DUTY OF ONLY SPECIFIC
SPECIALIZED ORGANS
WITHIN THE BODIES OF
LARGER COMPLEX
ORGANISMS.

AS GENETIC
STRUCTURES
SHUFFLED AND
COMBINED IN
DIFFERENT WAYS,
LIFE FLOURISHED,
CHANGED, AND
DIVERSIFIED.


WITHOUT ANY
CONSCIOUS
INTENT, LIFE
SPREAD OVER
THE EARTH.

DIVERSE
SURVIVAL
STRATEGIES
WERE
EMPLOYED.

SOME
CREATURES GREW
ENORMOUS AND
PHYSICALLY
POWERFUL...




... WHILE OTHERS
WOULD ADAPT
INGENIOUS SKILL
SPECIALIZATIONS
FOR THEIR
SURVIVAL.



AND SOME
REPLICATING MOLECULES
MAINTAINED THE
ORIGINAL STRATEGY OF
REPLICATING IN **HUGE**
NUMBERS, DESPITE NOW
BEING COMPLEX
ORGANISMS.



AFTER
MILLIONS OF
YEARS, ONE
COMPLEX
ORGANISM
EVOLVED IN A
NEW DIRECTION.



STANDING UPRIGHT,
AND EVOLVING A
COMPLEX BRAIN,
OUR
OWN ANCESTORS
WERE POISED TO
SURVIVE IN THE
WORLD BY
LEARNING
ABOUT IT.

MAN
SHAPED THE
WORLD TO
HIS NEEDS.

BUT UNDER IT ALL,
EVERY ADVANCE,
EVERY ACHIEVEMENT,
EVERYTHING GOOD
WE HAVE TODAY...

... IS NOTHING MORE
THAN THE EFFORT
OF A MOLECULE
PROGRAMED TO
REPLICATE ITSELF IN
PERPETUITY.

ARE THE
PARAMETERS OF AN
ARBITRARY *NINE
O'CLOCK* BEDTIME
THE RESULT OF
ANYTHING MEASURED
AGAINST A GREATER
EXISTENCE?

OR JUST THE
PRODUCT OF A
SELF-ANIMATING
PROTEIN SHELL FOR
DNA PROGRAMED TO
IMPOSE CONTROL
OVER ITS HALF-
REPLICANT?

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO READ
*RICHARD
DAWKINS* TO
ABIGAIL
ANYMORE.

SHE CALLED
*CHARLOTTE'S
WEB* "IDIOTIC".

I DON'T
CARE!