

### Creationist Cousins

Creationist cousins, they're my relations, I love 'em  
 But when they talk about Jesus and Revelations and Judges  
 I've gotta take it up with them  
 'Cause there's a better explanation for the place that we come from, okay?  
 Creationist cousins, they're my relations, I love 'em  
 But at the dinner table we get on some crazy discussions  
 I'm always questioning their basic assumptions  
 And saying, "yes I believe we came from monkeys, okay?"

That's the idea that most enrages Darwin's detractors  
 The idea that *we* came from ape-like ancestors  
 Some people *still* question this, and say: "If we came from  
 Monkeys, then how come there's monkeys still in existence?"  
 Allow me to illustrate a similar instance  
 I'm descended from Dutch Calvinist immigrants  
 Who came to Canada in the 1950s  
 And I still have second cousins who live in the Netherlands  
 But they're not my ancestors; they're my relatives  
 Since we have common genetic elements  
 Inherited from our great grandparents  
 That's just *three* generations back, but here's the relevance  
 Three *thousand* generations back, human beings *all* have  
 Common ancestors, so really we're *all* relatives  
 Which also means all relationships are relatively incestuous  
 Further back we have common ancestors with chimps  
 And gorillas and elephants and plants, and billions  
 Of years back our ancestors are all single-cellular  
 But what I find incredible isn't this principle  
 Of "unity of common descent", that's just elegant  
 What's incredible to me is that some of my living relatives  
 Still believe the earth was created about seventy-odd  
 Centuries ago – around the time of the Egyptians  
 By a benevolent God and that this same God  
 Is currently manipulating the elements  
 And that evolutionism is *devilish*  
 Did I mention that I was descended from Calvinist fundamentalists?  
 Well, I still have cousins as dedicated representatives  
 Approximately twenty percent of them  
 And at the dinner table we debate statistics  
 I say, "Creationism is unscientific  
 Ninety-nine percent of practicing scientists accept evolution  
 As the best explanation we have for living systems  
 Why? Because there's overwhelming empirical evidence!"  
 And they say, "Baba, science isn't run by consensus

That one percent is quite significant  
Those are the creationist scientists who have found signs  
Of intelligent design, but whenever they try and  
Publish it in the mainstream literature, they get black-listed  
Besides, your presuppositions are materialistic  
Maybe all that evidence scientists *say* they've collected  
Just empirically *proves* that God wants our faith to be tested!"  
So then I say, "But that means your benevolent God  
Is perpetrating a massive intellectual fraud!  
So either evolution is the victim of a frame job  
Which explains all of its predictive successes  
Or we have to separate God from the scientific method"  
And that's when my sister steps in  
To defend a different kind of creationism – *Cultural* creationism,  
Also known as "social constructivism" or "post-modernism"  
She says: "Baba, the Western scientific method  
Is just as subjective as every other cultural tradition  
Except it's just better at *pretending* to be objective  
Because, like, all behaviour is socially constructed  
And mostly, it just promotes injustice  
And, like, gender roles have nothing to do with genitals  
They're just a way for men to control women's goals  
And try to turn us all into Playboy centerfolds  
Haven't you heard about that tribe in the Amazon  
Where the woman does the man's jobs and hunts and plants the crops  
And brings home the food for the man to wash?  
Um, I can't remember exactly what that clan is called  
But I know it's a published fact  
Because I read about it in my Women's Studies class  
And it *proves* that gender is a socially constructed act  
So how does sociobiology explain that?"  
And all I can do is come back with more statistics  
About the high percentage of indigenous  
Societies where polygamy is prolific  
And about human sexual dimorphism  
And the different reproductive investments between men and women  
Which of course then gets my religious cousins offended  
Because it doesn't credit Genesis with our humble beginnings  
And, let's just say, the discussions are *endless*  
But it isn't about *who* is impartial; no one's impartial  
It's about how much evidence you can marshal  
And how you deliver the parcel  
And when my relatives argue, I have to have *faith*  
That we can reach the genuine article in a rational way  
That's a different *kind* of faith than my cousins have  
In divine creation, but hey, to all of my relatives

And fellow primates, I say  
If it makes you feel better, go head and pray  
In fact, here's how I pray in a secular way  
I say, "I have creationist relatives and relative apes  
And I wish them all happiness, whatever their faith  
And I wish myself patience, since I relish debates  
Let us all be respectful and still tell it straight"