

Landau James E.F, The Biodiversity Song

SARAH

Everyone's part of a family in a tribe or a race or ethnic group by
right of birth,
And we're all in the subspecies we call *Homo sapiens sapiens*,
the only known surviving one on Earth;
We're in the species *Homo sapiens*, which is in the genus
Homo, in the family that we call *Hominidae*,
And in the anthropoid suborder with the apes and the monkeys, and
also all the human family.
It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;
So many classes and phyla,
From *Amoeba* to *Homo* to *Hyla*,
It's so biodiverse, and we're not.
And we're in the primate order, if you include all the lemurs, the
sifakas, indris and the tarsiers,
And the placental infraclass, with dogs and mice and other non-
pouched live-bearing little critters that bear furs.
Along with the marsupials, we're in the therian subclass, and, along
with echidnas and platypi,
In the class of *Mammalia* -- from the kangaroos and wombats to the
dolphins, whales and hippopotami.
And still, our genes are relatively shared if you think about the
classes in the tetrapod infraphylum,
With amphibians and reptiles, and such birds as the chickens, or the
cuckoos in the old insane asylum;
If you include the fish, we're in the vertebrate subphylum, and,
along with acorn worms, we are chordates,
And that's just one of the phyla in the animal kingdom, along with
molluscs, sponges and coelenterates.
It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;
With each order and division,
Subspecies and precision,
It's so biodiverse . . . what are we?
And besides that giant kingdom of the arthropods and brachiopods, and
annelids, or else segmented worms,
And flatworms, bryozoans, tardigrades, onychophorans, sipunculoids
and some echinoderms,
There are other living kingdoms, with the fungi and such plants as
moss, sundews, ferns, magnolias, rice and beans,
Not to mention the two kingdoms of the protists and prokaryotes, such
as algae, protozoa and blue-greens.
And even simpler and more biodiverse yet are the viruses, such as the
common cold and HIV,
And simpler yet than those are little entities called viroids, specks
much too infinitesimal to see;
And simplest of them all are the prions, which are little more than
fleeting strands of simple DNA,
Little reproductive strains formed from self-replicating patterns
that started from some old, primordial clay.
It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;
One thing's sure: we're the solution
To years of evolution,
It's so biodiverse, and we rule!