



Charles, My Hero

The evolution of thought

The world's heroic thinkers have one thing in common, **PASCAL DETTWILLER** proposes.

Socrates, Aristotle, Plato; Marco Polo, the Polynesian Navigators, Jacques Cartier; Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), Mme Curie; all heroes of our world. But why did they do what they did? How was it possible for them to do what they did? What was the driving force of these people and all their eminent peers through the ages? I don't think anyone can offer answers to these questions with any degree of veracity, and this is an integral link.

Is "opportunity" a link? Probably not. Is "need" a link? Again, probably not. Marco Polo was given an opportunity, but the same cannot be said for Socrates. I don't think that "need" can be argued for the legacy of the early philosophers, but it can be argued for the discoveries of Mme Curie. The Polynesian Navigators populated the islands of the Pacific and possibly even further afield. There was no need to sail so far afield, but there was opportunity due to the sophistication of their vessels and their navigational skills. So need and opportunity can quite reasonably be discounted as common links or reasons for the world's heroes to do, to achieve, what they did.

What about original thought? Is this the common thread that links all the "heroes" of achievement? Original thought is largely unprovable, we only know of the person who "achieved", we have no way of knowing or proving that someone else in the world's population hadn't had the original thought. So is there a link, and if so, what is it?

IMAGE

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I think there is a common link that joins all the world's heroes, past, present, and future. I think that link is an element of the "human condition", irrepressible and overwhelming desire. It cannot be called "need", because there would be no dire repercussions if one did not follow through with a thought. Let us say then that it is an innermost desire that drives some people to take their thoughts and pursue them to their conclusion. If we accept this explanation, it does manage to cover all bases with fewer opportunities for argument than perhaps any other explanation. Importantly, it allows us lesser mortals to accept genius without envy.

Where then does my hero fit? Mr Charles Darwin. I don't want to mislead you, it is not just his theories on the *Origins of Species* and other scientific work that makes "Charlie" my hero. It's how his theories relate to the order of the human endeavour, the order of nature, the order of the world, and even the universe. Evolution!

Consider: evolution is not restricted to nature and the survival of the fittest, it also refers to thought. From one thought, another develops; from one action, another occurs. This is why Charles is my hero; he gives reason to all that has taken place in the world, and all that will. Evolution gives comfort in explaining why things happen, good, bad, or indifferent.

Here then is the one link that is immutable, evolution. Socrates, Aristotle, Plato evolved thought; others evolved the notion of time, place, and culture; and others evolved notions of science and even abstract thought. There are three things that (to date) are the three "truths" of our world: life, death, and continued evolution of all concrete and abstract thought.