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huc

Some day I hope we have a conference devoted to Human Evolution and Culture. It is not just that an understanding of human biology and its evolution ~~is~~ is the substrate of the flowering of culture. More and more we accept the course, that culture has had a major impact on our biological evolution. <sup>and will continue to have</sup> Consider how the mixing of peoples, the breakdown of racial isolates, after the human gene pool today.

The central mystery is how the human brain, starting about 1,000,000 years ago entered the evolutionary pathway of enlargement in gross size and functional capacity that led to the uniqueness of modern man. How the capacity for language, art, reason was evolved long before its realization: written language is after all barely 10,000 years in history, and we do not believe there has been significant biological evolution in that interval.

More and more, scholars accept that the capacity for social integration was the main driver in human evolution. The dark subtext is that

intra-species, namely tribal warfare may have been the principal mediator of natural selection, favouring those genotypes capable of group solidarity, and efficiency and sacrifice on behalf of the group.

AC Clarke Smith 2001 - I submit with respect

that some note aside, scholars are working hard to acquire the data and assemble a consensus on the main narrative. We know that *Homo sapiens* is a single species, with no evident barriers to contemporary flow, since the dispersals from Africa about 200,000 BP. In my view, sexual selection - mate choice and reproductive success according to tribal cultural norms - has far outweighed natural selection as the driver for the cosmetically desirable attributes of skin color and body form. Genetic assessment is far less evident for more deep seated traits - with a few exceptions related to diet diseases, like malaria and the sickle-cell factor. Nothing is known about racial genetic factors in cultural attributes

like temperament, intelligence, or language proficiency  
and thus is much in need of evidence to the  
individuals within racial groups do of course vary substantially  
Evid. contrary. We should be no more surprised at the  
Melanesian coming here than at the Attics  
having invented it in the first place. But the  
tools of analysis, and many aspects of evolutionary  
theory are all very primitive, and we may  
expect real knowledge on these matters to emerge  
decades or the next century.

Meanwhile, humility and awe are the most  
appropriate postures.