

Oh My

by Suzy Hopkins

Stephen Jay Gould, PhD. (1941-2002), paleontologist, author, and Harvard educator was one of the best known and widely read scientists of the 20th century. Of his more than 20 books the most controversial was about how we are all descended from Africans since the oldest bones found are from there.

His writing is complex and elaborate as shown in the following two sentences:

On objectivity

“Objectivity cannot be equated with mental blankness; rather, objectivity resides in recognizing your preferences and then subjecting them to especially harsh scrutiny and also in a willingness to revise or abandon your theories when the tests fail, as they usually do.”

On science

“My own field of paleontology has strongly challenged the Darwinian premise that life’s major transformations can be explained by adding up, through the immensity of geological time, the successive tiny changes produced generation after generation by natural selection.”

Oh my.