

Omega Point Quotes

C. S. Peirce writes: “in the beginning – infinitely remote – there was a chaos of unpersonalized feeling, which being without connection or regularity would properly be without existence. This feeling, sporting here and there in pure arbitrariness, would have started the germ of a generalizing tendency. Its other sportings would be evanescent, but this would have a growing virtue. Thus the tendency to habit would be started; and from this, with the other principles of evolution, all the regularities of the universe would be evolved. At any time, however, an element of pure chance survives and will remain until the world becomes an absolutely perfect, rational, and symmetrical system, in which mind is at last crystallized in the infinitely distant future.” (Peirce, *Collected Papers*, 6.33).

Teilhard de Chardin writes: “We have seen and admitted that evolution is an ascent towards consciousness. . . . Therefore it should culminate forwards in some sort of supreme consciousness. But must not that consciousness, if it is to be supreme, contain in the highest degree what is the perfection of our consciousness?” (*The Phenomenon of Man*, 258)

Teilhard writes: “When the end of the world is mentioned, the idea that leaps into our minds is always one of catastrophe. Generally we think of a sidereal cataclysm. . . . Since physics has discovered that all energy runs down, we seem to feel the world getting a shade chillier every day. . . . Onslaughts of microbes, organic counter-evolutions, sterility, war, revolution – there are so many ways of coming to an end. We are well aware of these different eventualities. . . . And yet, on the strength of all we learn from past evolution, I feel entitled to say that we have nothing whatever to fear from these manifold disasters *in so far as* they imply the idea of premature accident or failure. However possible they may be in theory, we have higher reasons for being sure *that they will not happen*.” (*The Phenomenon of Man*, 274-5)

Frank Tipler writes: “Our species is an intermediate step in the infinitely long temporal Chain of Being that comprises the whole of life in space-time. An essential step, but still only a step. In fact, *it is a logically necessary consequence of eternal progress that our species become extinct*. For we are finite beings, we have definite limits. Our brains can code only so much information, we can understand only rather simple arguments. If the ascent of life into the Omega Point is to occur, one day the most advanced minds must be non-*Homo Sapiens*. The heirs of our civilization must be another species, and their heirs yet another, *ad infinitum* into the Omega Point.” (*The Physics of Immortality*, 218).

Ray Kurzweil writes: “Evolution moves toward greater complexity, greater elegance, greater knowledge, greater intelligence, greater beauty, greater creativity, and greater levels of subtle attributes such as love. In every monotheistic tradition God is likewise described as all of these qualities, only without any limitation: infinite knowledge, infinite intelligence, infinite beauty, infinite creativity, infinite love, and so on. Of course, even the accelerating growth of evolution never achieves an infinite level, but as it explodes exponentially it certainly moves rapidly in that direction. So evolution moves inexorably toward this conception of God, although never quite reaching this ideal.” (*The Singularity is Near*, 389)

A modernized Great Chain of Being, in which history climbs up the chain.

| Level (Epoch) | Types | Properties |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 7 | The Awakened Universe | The whole universe is a self-aware computer. |
| 6 | Super-computers | Matter becomes saturated with intelligence. Computers the size of stars and galaxies. |
| 5 | Super-biological technology | Information in super-biological technical patterns. |
| 4 | Technology | Information in hardware and software designs. |
| 3 | Brains | Information in neural patterns |
| 2 | Biology | Information in DNA |
| 1 | Chemistry Physics | Information in atomic structures |

Table 1. Kurzweil's Epochs of Evolution.

Argument for Endless Evolution:

(1) The complexities of the most complex things have been exponentially growing from the Big Bang up to the present time.

(2) Since such growth is extremely improbable, it is almost certainly not accidental.

(3) Since it is almost certainly not accidental, it is almost certainly based on some *driving principle*.

(4) Many writers have given many versions of this principle. The most basic way to formulate the driving principle has two parts. The first part states that every thing strives to surpass itself in every possible way. It strives to become more perfect and to climb the Great Chain. The second part states that at least one of these strivings always succeeds. Of course, most of these strivings may fail.

(5) On the basis of this principle, or some other principle like it, evolution will continue to ascend exponentially. It will rise towards divine complexity. It will end in a maximally perfect *Omega Point*. On the one hand, it may actually reach this Omega Point; on the other hand, it may converge to it without ever actually reaching it.