BOOK REVIEW

Evolution Stands Faith Up: Reflections on Evolution's Wars

Author: Guillermo Paz-y-Miño-C (Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Massachusetts, USA)

"Science is just a refined device for resolving ordinary curiosity and a powerful liberator of superstition. It stands alone in its secular turf." With this thought-provoking statement in the preface, Guillermo Paz-y-Miño-C hints at what will fascinate the reader in his recent book Evolution Stands Faith Up: Reflections on Evolution Wars. The author immerses us in a broad range of topics with a common theme: why science is critical for our well-being and how "belief," as a "disruptor," delays and stops the correct comprehension and acceptance of evidence.

All chapters provide useful information and enjoyment. Several descriptions take us to stunning sites while bringing evolution to life (e.g. Unforgettable Galapagos, a Summit, and Why Evolution Matters; Conservation Behavior in the Galapagos; Denying Rome, the Exquisite Colosseum and Evolution; Mauna Kea Telescopes to Sink in the Pacific; All History is Black History); others, alert us about the dangers of pseudoscience or belief in the supernatural (e.g Faith Healing vs. Medical Science; Wrong at Forecasting Armageddon; Rejection of Science Threatens to Be Epidemic; Evolution Stands Faith Up: On Francis Collins' & Karl Giberson's "The Language of Science and Faith").

As reader and researcher, I was captivated when being transported, by the author's narratives, to natural history museums, animal collections and cities (e.g. Boston's Charles Hayden Planetarium; A Stationary Ark on the Isle of Jersey; On Whales and a Whaling Museum; Lisbon's Lesson: Honor the Value of Discovery). I found it concerning to learn that, although Americans Want Candidates to Debate Science, our science standards cause our high school students to be uncompetitive in the world (e.g. Massachusetts Gets an A- in Science Standards), and that high religiosity is common among the New England Faculty and Educators of Prospective Teachers (e.g. New England Professors Accept Evolution, but They are Religious).

I must confess my favorite chapter is On the Wrongly Called the God Particle. I admired how the author takes us in an easy-to-follow journey through the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012. Without overwhelming the reader with technical details, the message is clear "The Higgs is a sub atomic particle, a boson, and a crucial one to understand the properties of other elementary particles, for example, why some have mass and others, like the photons (components of light) don't. Without mass, no atoms would exist, no galaxies or stars, no solar systems or planets with life, and no brains capable of thinking about it."

I would use this book in a college course on science writing, or possibly in science journalism. And recommend it to scientists and readers seeking a great combination of content, style and sharpness in the analysis of the "evolution wars" and "science illiteracy."

Review provided by **Avelina Espinosa**, PhD, Professor of Biology, Roger Williams University, United States