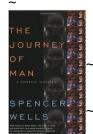
Journey of Man, by Dr. Spencer Wells

ASIN: B0000AYL48; DVD Release Date: August 5, 2003; Run Time: 120 minutes Format: Color, DVD, NTSC; Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 (no language subtitles) Region 1 (U.S. and Canada only)



The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey. Paperback: 240 pages Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks (February 17, 2004) Language: English | ISBN-10: 0812971469

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Journey of Man

http://www.youtube.com/ (search: "The Journey of Man")

Concepts and terminology:

- * **Genetic traits**: all genes-based features of a living being, which may be visually noticeable, such as a person's eye-color or height; or not evident, such as people resistance to some diseases and the reason why people with light eye-colors, have way larger visual impairments
- * **DNA** (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid): macromolecules supporting the instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms (with the exception of RNA viruses)
- * RNA (RiboNucleic Acid): one of the three major macromolecules (along with DNA and proteins) that are essential for all known forms of life
- * **Proteins**: are assembled from amino acids using information encoded in genes. Each protein has its own unique amino acid sequence that is specified by the nucleotide sequence of the gene encoding this protein
- * Mutations (biology and genetics): changes in the DNA/(genomic) (or RNA in a virus) sequence of a cell caused by physical or chemical or biological reasons, such as radiation, mutagenic chemicals and meiosis or replication
- * Mitochondrial DNA: inherited solely from our (mammal) mothers and transferred only to daughters, is the smallest chromosome
- * Y-Chromosome: one of the two sex-determining chromosomes in most mammals, including humans, which triggers testis development
- * **Human evolution**: the phenotypic history of the genus Homo, including the emergence of Homo sapiens as a distinct species and as a unique category of hominids ('great apes') and mammals
- * Creationism: humanity, life, the Earth, and the universe are the creation of a supernatural being
- * Intelligent design: certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.

Questions:

What did Dr. Wells want to prove exactly? Did he convencingly prove it?

Did people know about inheritance/"genetics" before it became part of Science?

How can we know about the history of our human ancestors if they didn't leave a written history?

Who was **Gregor Johann Mendel**?

Who were Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin?

Who is Luca Cavalli-Sforza?

How could they trace our genetic trail? Do you get genetic information only from blood?

When did homo sapiens (we) start going out of Africa? Did it happen at once?

So, we came out of 'Africa' and, as members of one large family, have been procreating for 2,000 generations over 50,000 years. Has our family tree had divergent trunks?

So if "race" from a purely biological point of view is outright nonsense, why are politicians so good at exploiting it? If we are all cousins (even if somewhat distant ones), why do we engage in savage wars?

Are we getting smarter? Any more morally civilized? More respectful of our place and relationship in regards to Nature?

What can you say about our early cousins, the **San Bushmen** and the **Chukchi** people still living within the arctic circle?

Does the following statement have any scientific basis?

We share 98% of our genes with chimpanzees. That 2% difference is what enables us to have religion and construct cathedrals, have a symbolic language and arts, plant crops, learn the secrets of the universe with science, cure diseases, and walk on the moon ...

Did you like everything about the movie? What was your favorite part of the movie? Which parts would you take off?

Did our cognitive development happen along the physiological development?

What do you think about the following conversation between Navajo and Dr. Wells or the differences between myths and sciences?

Navajo: it talks about the event of creation ...

Dr. Wells: Do you any stories about where the (your) ancestors come from?

N: ... in other words we were birthed into this place, as we are (given) birth by our mothers

W: I also have my own sense of what that story might be using science I am a geneticist. Everybody around the world is very closely related to each other. We are all part of one big family. In fact we are all related to people who lived in Africa 50,000 years ago, that is only about 2,000 generations. So, you have distant relatives living all over the world, who are essentially African and you yourselves are essentially African, so am I W: the evidence is that the first people who migrated out of Africa followed a Coastal migration route on the South coast of Asia and ended up in Australia, the Australian aborigines

N: You are basing this on the genetic trail?

W: ... there are lots of different populations in Australia speaking very different languages, they have different cultures, different myths ...

N: Why do you call something that a people would tell you a "myth" as opposed to an experience that they had and they relive it over and over rather than calling it a myth ... if you call something a "myth", it is a substandard event that does have any relevance, they are real as we understand them

W: ... my bias as a scientist is that I like to see evidence for things ...

Write a 3 paragraph essay about that video