

## Group Selection

“Sure, I could get up at dawn, go to a job I hate that does not inspire me creatively whatsoever, or I could get up at noon at learn how to play the sitar” Bill Hicks

Survival of the fittest is *such* a bleak vision  
 Are we really just a freakish collision of selfish genes  
 Selfishly promoting their *own* individual interests?  
 Well, maybe, but sometimes those interests are collective  
 Still, “survival of the fittest” is a phrase easily twisted  
 By anybody out to justify the meager existence  
 That some people live with; it’s a phrase often enlisted  
 By parasites eager to benefit from these differences  
 In the nineteenth century it was aristocratic eugenicists  
 In the twentieth century, genocidal menaces  
 Used “survival of the fittest” to justify their death sentences  
 And gangsters still use it today to degrade their victims  
 Not to mention the purveyors of disaster capitalism  
 These are all examples of “Social Darwinism”  
 But none of this is based on scientific evidence  
 Merely showing that something exists in a state of nature  
 Doesn’t give it a moral basis; that’s a false correlation  
 Competition can sometimes increase motivation  
 But evolution is also driven by cooperation  
 Just ask the dictyostelium nation  
 Bacteria combined into eukaryotic cells  
 And became the organelles within their symbiotic shells  
 And we have fifty trillion of those in our individual selves  
 So we’re like physical spaces where creative collectives dwell  
 And this applies to the societies we erect as well  
 ‘Cause survival of the fittest also applies to groups  
 And the fittest group makes the best combined moves  
 So, can’t we all just get along, whatever we try and do?

Where’s the altruism? Where’s the love? Where’s the altruism?  
 All these vultures talkin’ ‘bout survival of the fittest  
 But the altruism y’all, come on, where’s the altruism?  
 We need to get together on a common vision!

Group selection just puts me in an altruistic mood  
 Like: Yeah, love thy neighbour! What’s that?  
 You need some sugar? Okay, come by later!  
 Of course I’ll do you favour; why’s that?  
 ‘Cause I’ve got the compassion of a vampire bat  
 If you need some food, I’ll do what I can  
 So what if we’re not related; you’re still my man

You're still my sister; I feel high, man!  
This universal love is good stuff, god damn!  
And you don't have to reciprocate either  
Because karma is a sophisticated teacher  
Karma isn't just energy waves in the ether!  
No, karma's in the way everyone hates a cheater  
Cheater detection will keep you in check when  
You jump cues and refuse to treat people respectfully  
So go ahead, take what you want, run me down  
'Cause I believe what goes around comes around  
Liars and thieves and those who try to deceive  
Get dealt with by the immune systems of society  
And survival of the fittest? Don't let it baffle you  
Because fitness isn't "fitness", no, it's aptitude  
Between the environment and whatever's adapted to it  
And in social animals like humans, aptitude is *attitude*  
And *my* attitude is there's nothing we can't do  
As a human family group, as long as we have rules  
To keep the cheaters in check; I figure we can't lose  
We can go to the moon and back this afternoon  
As long as what's bad for me is also bad for you  
So let's just all get together and have some food  
And put an end to this endless feud – is that cool?

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“And if we evolve the idea, you see, the planet might be more compassionate, and something like *heaven* might dawn” Bill Hicks