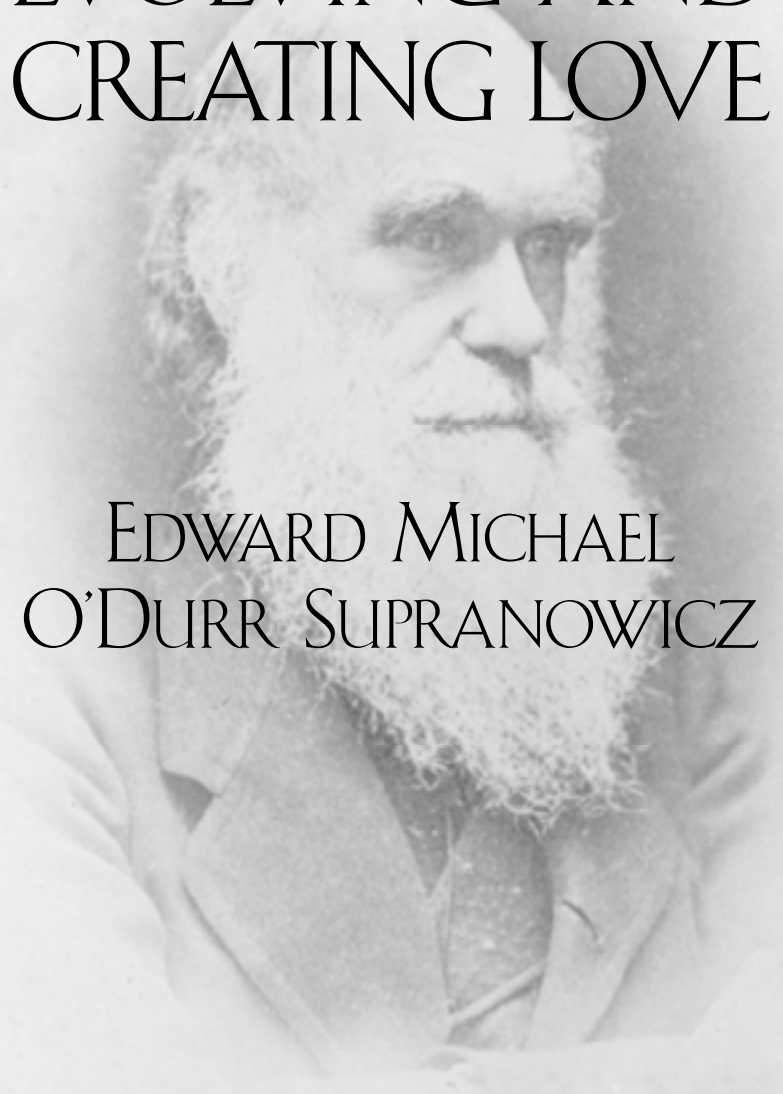


# EVOLVING AND CREATING LOVE



EDWARD MICHAEL  
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CC&D 2008 CHAPBOOK  
SCARS PUBLICATIONS & DESIGN

*Darwin.*



CHARLES DARWIN, AGE 52

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## THE VOID

Love exists  
Before what  
Is loved  
Ever is.  
God knew this  
As He started  
To separate  
The void into  
Dark and light,  
Heaven and earth,  
Then man and woman,  
As angels watched  
Jealously.

## SHADE AND SHADOW

From pure darkness  
Roiling within  
Its velvet self,  
First must have been  
Shadows of shades,  
Then shades solid  
Enough to cast  
Shadow into white form.  
It must have been this way,  
For I have seen  
The sinuous, tentative  
Way a woman walks.

## VIRAL LOVE

So primitive,  
Encapsulating  
The most basic  
Patterns and proteins,  
Then shedding  
Its shell inside  
A host, causing fever,  
Often killing,  
But always escaping  
Unscathed, unchanged.

## AMOEBIA LOVE

Content with itself,  
Duplicating itself whether under a Microscope or not,  
Moving only in  
Response to stimuli,  
Engulfing what it can,  
Causing dysentery  
Of the heart and soul.

## AQUATIC LOVE

So much life  
Within the sea,  
So much water  
To swim in,  
To float upon.  
Just to be  
Immersed, surrounded,  
Seems enough for many,  
Even though they never  
Touch the bottom  
Or reach the shore.





## AMPHIBIOUS LOVE

To be able to live  
With one foot in water,  
The other on land  
Might explain why women  
Believe frogs can be princes,  
But it does not explain  
Why they kiss them more than once.



## SNAKE LOVE

It crawls across  
The earth, its belly  
Absorbing heat or cold,  
And almost remembers  
Something about a garden,  
Something about betrayal.  
But it no longer knows  
Who betrayed whom or why.  
It simply grows until  
It sheds its skin,  
Then grows again.





## BIRD LOVE

It seems you are  
Holding the sky  
When a sparrow  
Deigns to come close.  
But when winter comes,  
It flies away.



## WOLF LOVE

Bays at the moon  
And loves the hunt  
Almost as much as  
The blood within  
The first bite of flesh.

## MONKEY LOVE

Jumps up and down,  
Swings through the trees.  
It curls a smile  
Like a ripe banana  
And knows everything  
Is a joke, so it always  
Wants the last laugh.



# ANIMAL, MINERAL, OR VEGETABLE?

All things physical  
Must be one or the other.  
But lovers are not categorized  
Until they are resented.

# PLANTING LOVE

It begins as a seed.  
Yes, it is important  
To wait for it to grow,  
To watch it, water it,  
To pull weeds from it.  
But it is also important  
To know whether or not  
It was the seed you wanted.



## LOVE TREE

Some lovers stand  
Like trees and wait  
For the rain.  
But when the rain comes  
It runs off the edges  
Of empty branches.





## NEANDERTHAL LOVE

These cavemen and women  
Disappeared long ago.  
There is little evidence  
Of what they were like  
Unless you might have  
Overheard the couple next door  
Arguing in the summer heat,  
The door to their cave wide open,  
Their voices like clubs  
Raised over each other's heads.

## SHARDS OF LOVE

Only broken pieces  
Of pottery and skeletons  
Remain to tell us of  
The lovers who loved  
Long before we were able to.  
And what can we know  
Of them or ourselves  
If love is only skin and sinew,  
Not part of the marrow?



## K/NIGHTS OF LOVE

When knights  
Were on quests,  
Maidens spent  
Nights alone.

## RATIONAL LOVE

Buils cathedrals  
And palaces:  
Large, magnificent  
Places with  
Perspective  
And vanishing lines  
In which people  
Seem to disappear.

## SENSIBLE LOVE

Comes from good families  
And goes to church  
And always wears sensible shoes.

## POVERTY AND LOVE

No, you can't live on love.  
No, it doesn't pay the bills.  
But even on a broken sofa,  
Sometimes you can make love

## SEASONAL AFFAIR

Men like the cold, blustery fall.  
Women like the hot, sultry summer.  
Sometimes, they even like each other.  
But they never see each other until  
They have lived through all the seasons.

## A CHILD'S LOVE

A child may love  
Pepperoni extra crispy  
Or the color purple.  
But who's to say  
These things are not  
Desperately in need  
Of love also?





## LOVE WITHIN THE DARKNESS

Your womb was dark, empty.  
Then a small bit of life  
Hovered in it like a first star.  
It has swollen into a full moon.  
Now, you light up the room.

## ENCIRCLED

The circles that Seth makes  
As he runs around you  
Are tentative , far from perfect.  
He's not venturing too far.  
You can still reach out and touch  
The life that was inside you,  
But now is within the world.  
Someday he will go further.  
And you will too.

## WE BEGIN

And end  
In darkness,  
And at times  
Know the darkness  
In our hearts.  
The light  
Hurts our eyes,  
As maybe it hurt  
God's when  
He created it.  
But we too  
Must simply say,  
And it was good.

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With "Aquatic Love," the image is of a coy pond at Confucius temple in Shanghai, China. The two marine Iguanas with "Amphibious Love" are from the Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island (in the Galapagos Islands, 12/27/07). The snake with "Snake Love," was photographed 05/30/05. With "Bird Love," the top image is of a finch in flight from a Cactus at the Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island (in the Galapagos Islands, 12/27/07), and the bottom image is of Frigate birds flying over a ship over the Pacific Ocean near the Galapagos Islands. The three monkey images with "Monkey Love" were photographed 05/30/05. The plant images with "Planting Love" were photographed at Three Domes Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 03/05/06. the dead tree branches in "Love Tree" were photographed at Las Bachas beach (Baltra Island, Galapagos Islands 12/23/07). The three images with "Shards of Love" are from ruins in Pompeii (Italy). The image with "A Child's Love" is of Claire, photographed in the 1980s.

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