

## **James E.F Landau**

# **"The Biodiversity Song"**

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SARAH

Everyone's part of a family in a tribe or a race or ethnic  
group by  
right of birth,  
And we're all in the subspecies we call Homo sapiens  
sapiens,  
the only known surviving one on Earth;  
We're in the species Homo sapiens, which is in the  
genus  
Homo, in the family that we call Hominidae,  
And in the anthropoid suborder with the apes and the  
monkeys, and  
also all the human family.  
It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,  
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;  
So many classes and phyla,  
From Amoeba to Homo to Hyla,  
It's so biodiverse, and we're not.  
And we're in the primate order, if you include all the  
lemurs, the  
sifakas, indris and the tarsiers,  
And the placental infraclass, with dogs and mice and  
other non-  
pouched live-bearing little critters that bear furs.  
Along with the marsupials, we're in the therian  
subclass, and, along  
with echidnas and platypi,  
In the class of Mammalia -- from the kangaroos and  
wombats to the  
dolphins, whales and hippopotami.  
And still, our genes are relatively shared if you think  
about the  
classes in the tetrapod infraphylum,  
With amphibians and reptiles, and such birds as the  
chickens, or the  
cuckoos in the old insane asylum;  
If you include the fish, we're in the vertebrate  
subphylum, and,  
along with acorn worms, we are chordates,  
And that's just one of the phyla in the animal kingdom,  
along with  
molluscs, sponges and coelenterates.

It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,  
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;  
With each order and division,  
Subspecies and precision,  
It's so biodiverse . . . what are we?  
And besides that giant kingdom of the arthropods and  
brachiopods, and  
annelids, or else segmented worms,  
And flatworms, bryozoans, tardigrades,  
onychophorans, sipunculoids  
and some echinoderms,  
There are other living kingdoms, with the fungi and  
such plants as  
moss, sundews, ferns, magnolias, rice and beans,  
Not to mention the two kingdoms of the protists and  
prokaryotes, such  
as algae, protozoa and blue-greens.  
And even simpler and more biodiverse yet are the  
viruses, such as the  
common cold and HIV,  
And simpler yet than those are little entities called  
viroids, specks  
much too infinitesimal to see;  
And simplest of them all are the prions, which are little  
more than  
fleeting strands of simple DNA,  
Little reproductive strains formed from self-replicating  
patterns  
that started from some old, primordial clay.  
It is so biodiverse, and we're so homogeneous,  
To realize how alike we are, it doesn't take a genius;  
One thing's sure: we're the solution  
To years of evolution,  
It's so biodiverse, and we rule!

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