

ARDESHIR MEHTA  
414 KINTYRE  
OTTAWA, ON K2C 3M7 CANADA  
TEL: (613) 225 6208  
FAX: (613) 225 0244

E-mail address: ardeshirmehta@myself.com

## NOTE ON THE ESSAY *TOLDOT ADAM*

The essay *Toldot Adam* was written in the Hebrew of the *Haskalah*, the Jewish Enlightenment, by Naphtali Lewy and published in Vienna in the year 1874. It purported to show that the principles of Darwin's Theory of Evolution, which had just recently arrived on the scene, were already present and delineated in the *Torah*.

Although Lewy sent Darwin a copy of the essay along with a covering letter, both were in Hebrew, and Darwin had to have the letter translated at Cambridge University. The translation of the letter survives in the Cambridge University Library's Darwin Collection.

Prof. E.O. Dodson, now Professor Emeritus at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, came across a reference to this essay and eventually procured a copy in the original Hebrew, and in 1993 asked me to translate it. I did so, and the translation given here is a slightly updated version of my translation, which was finished in 1994.

Since 1994, other translations of this essay have also been made into English; but because many of Lewy's arguments are difficult to translate (since he employs a considerable amount of play upon words to make them, which is possible in Hebrew — due to many of its words being linked by tri-syllabic Semitic roots — but is hard if impossible in English), I thought scholars and historians of both the Darwinian Theory of Evolution and of the Bible might be interested in seeing my translation as well. This is all the more so since my translation was the first ever to be made into English of this essay.

*Ardeshir Mehta.*