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## The Enchantment of the World: Darwin's Theory of Mind in Nature

### Abstract:

Max Weber argued that modern science 'disenchanted' the world, cleansing it of moral values and spiritual powers. Darwin's theory has been marked by both opponents and proponents as a principal agent of disenchantment. I think this is an utterly mistaken view of Darwin's accomplishment. The theory presented in the *Origin of Species* reckoned natural selection to preserve moral value in nature and to set the human animal as the teleological goal of evolution. I believe this occurred for Kantian reasons: namely the impossibility of extracting mind from nature."

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Robert J. Richards er professor ved University of Chicago og leder af Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine. Blandt hans seneste udgivelser er *The Romantic Conception of Life: Science and Philosophy in the Age of Goethe* (University of Chicago Press, 2002) og *The Tragic Sense of Life: Ernst Haeckel and the Struggle over Evolutionary Thought* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).