

us to do but to gaze at those phenomena as a confused collection of incomprehensible and inexplicable miracles. But as soon as we leave this low standpoint, and rise to the height of the theory of development, by means of the supposition of a blood-relationship between the different species, then all at once a clear light falls upon this strange series of miracles, and we see that all chorological facts can be understood quite simply and clearly by the supposition of a common descent of the species, and their passive and active migrations.

The most important principle from which we must start in chorology, and of the truth of which we are convinced by due examination of the theory of selection, is that, as a rule, every animal and vegetable species has arisen only *once* in the course of time and only in *one* place on the earth—its so-called “centre of creation”—by natural selection. I share this opinion of Darwin’s unconditionally, in respect to the great majority of higher and perfect organisms, and in respect to most animals and plants in which the division of labour, or differentiation of the cells and organs of which they are composed, has attained a certain stage. For it is quite incredible, or could at best only be an exceedingly rare accident, that all the manifold and complicated circumstances—all the different conditions of the struggle for life, which influence the origin of a new species by natural selection—should have worked together in exactly the same agreement and combination more than once in the earth’s history, or should have been active at the same time at several different points of the earth’s surface.

On the other hand, I consider it very probable that