

Singularities

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A fascinating look at the key steps or bottlenecks that constrain the path to the origin and evolution of life. Erwin Schrödinger's *What is Life?* published 60 years ago, influenced much of the development of molecular biology. In this new book Christian De Duve, Nobel Laureate and pioneer of modern cell biology, presents a contemporary response to this classic, providing a sophisticated consideration of the key steps or bottlenecks that constrain the origins and evolution of life. De Duve surveys the entire history of life, including insights into the conditions that may have led to its emergence. He uses as landmarks the many remarkable singularities along the way, such as the single ancestry of all living beings, the universal genetic code, and the monophyletic origin of eukaryotes. The book offers a brief guided tour of biochemistry and phylogeny, from the basic molecular building blocks to the origin of humans. Each successive singularity is introduced in a sequence paralleling the hypothetical development of features and conditions on the primitive earth, explaining how and why each transition to greater complexity occurred. EAN/ISBN : 9780511128332 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Discussed keywords: Evolution Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Duve, Christian de

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