

## REPLY

(IN RE: E&A IV/4, Johnson's review of Clark's  
*The Nature of the Beast*)

Most of Johnson's comments and criticisms seem perfectly fair, though he makes too little allowance for the intended nature of the book. I was consciously writing a fairly simple, introductory book, not a detailed, scholarly pursuit of all possible hares.

Two of his comments deserve some response. That young male baboons only adopt *female* children (if that is so--it is not only female children who serve as buffers between antagonistic adults) does not seem to me to show that they are consciously collecting a harem. They are simply attracted by

particular traits and want to mother their bearers. This *results* in their having a 'harem', maybe, but this need not be their motive.

On the incest point: he is actually agreeing with me. The disadvantage

of incest is not primarily that it results in deformity, but that it misses out on the advantages of heterozygosity. Incestuous breeds get 'left' in the evolutionary race, as do parthenogenetic breeds. My point was drawn from Bischoff, and others.