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1st assignment, Darwin's Revolutions

Selected quote: “My own dear Emma [his cousin Emma Wedgwood], I kiss the hands with all humbleness and gratitude, which have so filled up for me the cup of happiness—It is my most earnest wish I may make myself worthy of you. *Emma Darwin 1904, vol. 1, 417*” (Browne, *The Quotable Darwin*, p57)

Your analysis begins here:

The above quote records the love that Darwin impressed on his dearest wife Emma. Indeed, it’s interesting that one of the most incredible biologists in history would have a consanguineous marriage.

After the voyage of the Beagle, Darwin was deeply attracted by his elder cousin Emma and decided to marry her. However, it is all known that having intermarriage is detrimental to “evolution”. Even though as a biologist, Darwin should be more aware of the risks involved, he strongly believed that “love can overcome everything” and chose Emma to be the only one in his life.

Unfortunately, the side effects of intermarriage were indicated in almost all their children. Nevertheless, Darwin didn’t feel depressed about this situation, it turned out to be his motivation cause he loved his children more than everything in the world. In order to gain a deeper understanding of how inbreeding affects offspring, Darwin even conducted extensive experiments on inbreeding in plants. And this spirit also explains why he was a great biologist.

From my perspective, Darwin is not just a successful biologist, but also a responsible husband and father.

The chosen quote is a declaration of love to his wife, who was also his cousin. There isn’t much in the quote for rigorous analysis but you could do more to interpret the final clause. What does Darwin mean when he wrote “It is my most earnest wish I may make myself worthy of you” in the end? Is it a reflection of Darwin’s awareness of his lack of achievement in his youth and therefore unworthy of Emma’s love?

Level of your understanding of the quote. 1.5/2%

Ability to construct a clear, coherent argument from a specific point of view, to convey this argument to your reader, and to support it through analysis of the quote. 1.5/2%

Suitability and effective use of evidence**.** 1.5/2%

Writing style, including good paragraph structure, clarity, and organizational structure. Good grammar and essay-mechanics (title, spelling, punctuation) 1.5/2%

Ability to follow presentation instructions for format. 2/2%

Overall: 8/10%