Neanderthal Man's Favourite Hymn

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Neanderthal man's favourite hymn was ...?

If you said "Rock of Ages", you were wrong. Since Neanderthal Man's discovery in Germany, people have associated the skeleton with the theory of evolution. A little bit of history should put some light on this. In the late 1600's, German poet Joachim Neander would wander in a little valley outside of Dusseldorf to write poetry. This little retreat became so much associated with Joachim's name that in the end it was called Mr Neander's Valley – in old German, Neander Thal. So when in 1856 a skull was found in one of the valleys caves, what better name than Neanderthal Man. It was originally portrayed as a half ape, half human, but right from the start, Berlin University Professor Virchow said this was a deformed human who had suffered childhood rickets and old age arthritis – an analysis which would eventually be proved embarrassingly correct by staff at the Natural History Museum in London, who would confirm that he indeed was a human being who had been suffering from at least Vitamin D deficiency. Later research hints that he probably also suffered from sexually transmitted diseases. There was also evidence right from the start, Neanderthal man had more brain space than a modern human.

And Neanderthal Man's favourite hymn? Of course, we mean the original Joachim Neander, whose most famous piece of poetry still appears in Christian hymnbooks around the world – "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation".