Script for Adele Hutchinson

~~Draft~~
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The last 40 years have seen a remarkable revolution in our scientific understanding of the basic laws of life. We now know that the genetic characteristics that distinguish each species, one from the other, indeed almost every individual one from the other, are ~~embodied~~ encoded in the chemical material called DNA. ~~which~~ This is present in every cell of our body and likewise that of every plant. In fact there is a remarkable similarity in the fundamental structure of ~~the~~ all cells and of ~~the~~ genetic material despite the fact ~~that there are about~~ of three billion years of evolutionary separation between the plant, and the animal and human, world.

These scientific insights, ~~have~~ during the last decade, have also been the subject of important technological developments. ~~and~~ we can read every day in the newspapers about the striking advances in medicine ~~and related fields~~ from the application of biotechnology. These same principles are now ~~also~~ being applied ~~with~~ to plant material. Many laboratories throughout the world, ~~both~~ at universities, ~~and~~ government laboratories, and industrially supported laboratories are ~~attempting to~~ applying ~~these~~ same principles in hopes of making still further improvements on plants important as crops, as medicinals, for fiber, ~~and~~ for fragrance and ornamentation, for all of the other uses ~~to which~~ of plants ~~are applied~~. This research is making very great strides and promises to offer still more important uses to humankind from the plant world.

The prospect of drawing together, in new synthetic crops, of germplasm resources from all over the world gives even more urgency to preserving the diversity which is our legacy from natural evolution.

Affectionately
Jack