

Where is Man Going?
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A slow dark fog
Settles over a
People who eat
Themselves
For nourishment

Time Magazine (April 19, 1971) thought it might be nice to tell the public that soon the power and gift of creating life out of life would be snatched away from them. By manipulating the genetic code, scientists foresee the possibility of forming a race of supermen. What God gave us to work with is not good enough for us. That one gift of freedom to choose, which was the damnation and is the salvation of mankind, will be forfeited.

Shackled and diseased
the entangled humanity
gropes for life.

Genetic manipulation may be the answer for millions of anxious cigarette smokers with lung cancer. It may mean the correction of genetic defects which account for more than 50% of human ailments. It may prove to be a deterrent for old age.

But far worse than cancer of the lungs or throat is cancer of the soul, and the present condition of that disease could only eat away at what is potentially good in man; creation, love, concern, response to suffering. And far more debilitating than genetic defects are moral defects. To what kind of morality could the society of man claim to adhere if it started turning out people who had only the mentality to put machines together, and other whose sol satisfaction in life was in killing the enemy? Far more ugly than a wise, solemn face, its wrinkles speaking of transient beauty and endurance, is a wrinkled soul, with dirt caking in the pores of sensitivity. Certainly the twilight of the race of man approaches as the new society is being fabricated.

Come, let us play God;
with our minds, bodies and
souls as trinkets,
let us buy our way into
eternity.

As we seek to make ourselves "immortal," we step into an edifice of misery. Let us share some of these visions of the future made possible by the progress in genetics. Man may one day alone, or asexually reproduce himself, creating thousands of identical twins in a test tube and an artificial womb. Time suggest, we may order such phenomena as an

entire police force cloned from the cells of J. Edgar Hoover or an invincible basketball team cloned from Lew Alcindor. Genetic manipulation could give man another thumb to increase the efficiency of his hands. A combination man and machine with a computer-like brain is in store for us. Scientists may alter genes so that babies will be born with ready knowledge – language skills, multiplication tables, etc. By changing certain genes, legless, astronauts with the genetic makeup to live on the moon's atmosphere could be turned out so smaller spaceships could be built.

As I sit here, a bright warm day in May, children are playing tag, the trees are blooming, the birds are singing, the men from the Department of Parks are planting tulips. It's easy to pretend that the world is healthy and man is only a child going through a difficult stage in life.

But the world is sick and getting sicker. And the epidemic of genetic manipulation will affect everyone eventually. Man no longer controls his society; his society controls him. Accepting Christ may no longer be an individual's decision – for the convenience and efficiency of the new society, man's spiritual conscience, and thereby Christianity, could probably through genetics be wiped out.

The Church which we always assumed would be witnessing to Christ until He finally came, will it survive? For 2000 years the Church has tried to bring men to their spiritual sense. Has the Church failed Christ?

Can we, as Christians, do anything to stop the madness which is approaching? One thing we can do is cling tenaciously to what we know is Truth. God's love for man is constant and unchanging even in the face of such incredible potential for evil. We must have faith that He will not forsake His people. Society's arguments are romantic and appealing – a cure for cancer, an easing of the horror of growing old. But Christians must forsake God either.

The new genetics is a step into a dark future; we are making a pact with the devil. The last time man did that, things didn't turn out so well. And ironically, the temptation is the same one he used thousands of years ago; come let us play God.

God forgive us! And give us the strength and the faith to do *Your* will.