

Pro Life—Contra Life

READERS ARE CERTAIN to see recurring reference in the *Rays* to the investigations and practices in microbiology which sanity and morality must conceive to be at least dubious and, more likely, spiritually transgressive.

Several motives impel scientific research in cellular and molecular biology. While greed, ambition, and desire for power play a part, the main incentive for exploring the inner precincts of the natural material world is the ineluctable desire to know, a desire with which students of Rosicrucian teachings are intimately familiar, for “It is a desire for knowledge which brings most of the pupils to the Rosicrucian School” (*Ancient and Modern Initiation*, p. 68).

Material scientists are mostly, like their esoteric confreres (Rosicrucian students), son’s of Cain: they strive to pass behind the veil of ignorance through intelligent action and applied knowledge. But the veil in question is not material or spatial; it is cognitive. It involves positing and discovering levels of consciousness and correlative dimensions of world being. It recognizes that life does not derive *from* atomic, molecular, and cellular forms and activity; it manifests *through* these forms as etheric processes, themselves based on living mental archetypes.

From occult science we learn that a series of Atlantean catastrophes resulted from humanity’s selfish use of etheric forces. Are modern scientific practices leading toward a comparable neo-Atlantean enormity?

Heindel in his day deplored the killing of animals for human consumption and convenience. One hundred years later we are witnessing a refinement of animal “sacrifice”—the harvesting of living human organisms. At least five companies buy and sell fetal body parts in what the Canadian news magazine *Alberta Report* (Aug. 25, 1999) calls “a vast trade in

human tissue from babies that are aborted and sometimes vivisected, to satiate the exploding multibillion-dollar biotechnology industry.” Now, with the ability to induce *in vitro* (out of the body) fertilization, embryonic stem cells can be harvested, as was done recently by researchers from Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Virginia, which engineered 40 human embryos (*LifeSite News*, Oct. 25, 2000). Stem cells are called pluripotent, or totipotent, because they are potentially capable of developing into any kind of cell and thus might help treat an array of intractable diseases by generating healthy tissue at problem sites. Great Britain legalized embryonic stem cell research in January of this year and Parliament has condoned “therapeutic” human cloning to create spare parts from the test tube cultivation of organs from donor cells.

It would seem that there is no stopping stem cell and genetic research. The ethical have scruples. Not so others. Stem Cell Sciences (Australia) and Biotransplant (United States) have both produced mixed embryos of two species—human and porcine—by removing the nucleus of a pig cell and replacing it with a cell nucleus taken from an unborn baby (*Zenit*, Oct. 8, 2000). The brave new world is here!

There can be no evasion of Destiny, no escape from self-wrought physical lessons to be learned and fleshed-out consequences of prior actions to be experienced. Our goal is not to improve our body parts and prolong our physical life span but to transform the thinking and feeling habits which produce ill-being. A presumed good end (bodily health, long life) does not justify a wrong means (embryonic harvesting, cloning for body parts). Our destiny is to become spiritually creative, not organ merchants and consumers. What profit is in these practices if they entail ignoring, and thus losing, our own soul? □