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Imago viva Dei

Although the development of the creative mental powers of the human individual occurs within a social process, the creative processes by means of which each individual may generate, transmit, or assimilate practically valid discoveries, are processes of concept-generation which are, demonstrably, wholly internal to each individual person. Therefore, those creative powers of the individual are *sovereign* powers of each individual in which that *divine spark* of potential for creative reasoning is developed.

It is not only the existence of the creative powers which defines man as in the image of the Creator; it is the fact that this creative power is in each instance a sovereign capability of the person, a sovereign essence of that individual, which defines the human individual as individually in the living image of the Creator or, in Latin, *imago viva Dei*.

Therefore, all human life is sacred. If a human life may be taken in the heat of morally justified warfare, or other mortal combat, no Christian may ever terminate a human life at leisure when the individual is helplessly in our power to sustain or kill. Otherwise, we sin directly against God.

The sacredness of human life is perhaps better understood, if we take into account the practical importance, to all of mankind, of each individual person who adds in the slightest degree to our fundamental scientific knowledge.

Put more simply, every improvement in mankind's store of fundamental scientific knowledge adds implicitly to the potential productive power and moral development of every person, present and future, of society as a whole. The rate of human progress thus tends to increase as we increase the total number of living persons whose mental powers are developed to generate, transmit, and assimilate the fruits of fundamental scientific progress. This is a simply demonstrated fact, which involves the deepest principles of the science of economic practice.

The malthusians argue, that the rate at which a society produces is the rate at which the entire society is depleting raw materials and other natural preconditions for human life. It should be obvious, that if the rate of scientific progress is great enough, no depletion will occur through expanded scale of production and consumption. Thus, on the condition that we develop and employ the creative potential of each new individual, a higher birth rate increases the relative scale of natural resources—a result directly opposite to the malthusians' well-known, but anti-scientific assertions.

Indeed, those create who might merely rear children in such a fashion as to nurture the creative potential of those children.

Any society which persists in what is commonly called today "a zero technological growth" policy of practice, indefinitely, must first stagnate, and then collapse ultimately into ruin. Archeology is occupied chiefly, although not exclusively, with the pitiful remains of such failed, inferior cultures.

The more obvious among the contributing causes for such

a wretched failure, is the inflationary and other ruinous effects of depletion of raw materials and analogous “environmental resources.” There are also deeper, underlying causes for the ruinous outcome, requiring deeper insight. We treat the case for raw materials first.

Generally, the relative quality of “ore” is defined in terms of the processes required, successively, to find it, to get it, and to refine it into the desired form of semi-finished, or so-called “intermediate” commodity. The predominant consideration, in nearly all of the cases, is the ration of labor required to bring a per capita market-basket’s ration of consumption of that intermediate commodity to the appropriate place, in the appropriate state of refinement. What we term “energy” has a leading bearing upon this determination of relative cost.

The case for metallic ores illustrates the principle.

The feasibility of reducing an ore to produce good quality ingot, involves the relative temperature (energy-flux density) delivered to each relevant molecule. For example, to go as directly as possible to the working point, if we can put a reduction-process into suitable magnetic confinement (“magnetic bottles”), and raise the operating temperature inside there to the critical level of temperature-equivalent (energy-flux density) at which tungsten exists only in the plasma-state, every kind of rock or solid or liquid waste in the universe becomes a more or less economical form of ore.

If we have available sufficient energy, at a sufficiently high energy-flux density, if we can handle that energy-flux density in production processes, and if the labor-cost of that energy and its productive application is a sufficiently small ration of the average amount of productive labor employed by that society, there is virtually no limit to the supply of commercial grades of ore. On the condition, that the *increasing* quantity of energy, the *rising* level of energy densities, and advances in employed technologies are proceeding in a properly coordinated way, at adequate rates, there is no “limit to growth” on the horizon of mankind today.

To show the fallacy of the obvious objections to what has just been stated, note the following.

Once we have achieved what is usually termed a “second-generation” fusion-energy device, in the range of a terawatt unit-output, mankind implicitly has escaped the bounds of planet Earth, to as far distant as the asteroid belt. Similarly, after that, the next energy-sources, controlled matter/anti-matter reactions, should be achieved by approximately the close of the coming century—on condition we are determined to bring this about. That upward step takes us to the outer limits of our solar system and into technologies carrying us far beyond that.¹

That destroys the implied objection to our observation respecting the limitlessness of prospects for growth.

Limits to growth appear, and close in upon us, only if our society is a foolish one. If a society is foolish enough to suppress the increasing of per capita consumption of energy,

the society will be crushed by its own stupidity. If a society is suicidal enough to call a halt to capital-intensive, energy-intensive investment in scientific and technological progress, or, even worse, to substitute labor-intensive “services” for capital-intensive, energy-intensive manufacturing, that society is implicitly dooming itself to collapse.

The possibility of a successful society depends upon two conditions. First, the society must generate scientific and technological progress; to do this, the society must have developed in its members the disposition and capacity for scientific progress. Second, the society must adopt policies which cause (the physical equivalent of) productive investment in scientific and technological progress to prevail over opposition to such policies.

Thus, with certain qualifications, we must speak now of “man the creator.” The mental-creative powers, which mankind demonstrates through the use of scientific revolutions to increase qualitatively the potential population-density of our species, is the generality referenced. This generality shows mankind to mirror the Creator. Thus, man is designed to become the “little creator,” the small mirror-image of the universal Creator. The former, the “little creator,” we call the “minimum”; the universal, the “Creator,” we call “the Maximum.”

Not only is this creative power uniquely characteristic of mankind, among all species; this creative power is located within the individual human personality, as a *sovereign* potential contained within that individual personality. Thus, it is the individual person who, by virtue of representing this *sovereign* power, is, individually, in the *Living Image of the Creator (imago viva Dei)*.

In the frequent case, that we may think that particular persons fail to express this Living Image of God in their conduct, those persons were born with the potential for creative reason, even though they may have abused or rejected that divine spark of potential within themselves. Thus, all individual human life is sacred.

Notes

1. See “Powered Flight to Mars in Less than Two Days,” Heinz Horeis, *EIR*, Vol. 14, No. 12, March 20, 1987, p. 18.

For the case that human space travel occurs at a constant acceleration/ deceleration of one earth gravity in a fusion process using helium-3, a spaceship could carry enough fuel for a round trip approximately as far as the asteroid belt. If we use the matter/anti-matter reaction gives a fuel-to-work ratio such that the same ship using a matter/anti-matter reaction, would be able to go three orders of magnitude greater distance approximately, which would carry us to the extremes of the solar system in a round trip.