



TRANSHUMA

MANKIND'S NEXT STEP FORWARD?

Transhumanism:

The philosophy that seeks the continuation and acceleration of the evolution of humanity beyond its current form (physically, mentally and socially) by means of science and technology.



Calvin Smith

RESISTANCE IS futile! Fans of the *Star Trek* franchise will recognize the classic phrase as a chilling warning delivered by humanity's arch nemesis; the Borg.

Science fiction becomes science fact

These beings had been integrated together via technological cybernetic implants that over-rode a victim's consciousness, to form one massive hive-like existence for its members. They despised individualism, prized technology and used it to conquer relentlessly and absorb entire races into their 'collective' (hence the warning above).

Those relegating such ideas to fiction might be jarred by popular-level articles like "Excuse Me, Is Your Tooth Ringing?"¹ This describes a dental implant that would allow a person to receive signals from radios and mobile phones, from the privacy of their own head! (Why would anyone want voices in their head?)

Designer Jimmy Loizeau explains: "It offers a 'Darwinian' advantage to the user whereby they have an advantage over their competition, although not a random mutation but a chosen one ... We are very interested in ... post-human evolution."

Whether for safety (tracking devices/chips), medical reasons (neural/dental implants) or purely cosmetic reasons (breast, extraocular implants) the concept of surgical implants is becoming more common in our societies.

The transhumanists

Transhumanism is a global phenomenon gaining tremendous popularity with a broad base of supporters. It is all-inclusive, embracing Darwinism, Intelligent Design, spirituality, science, belief in ET, etc. wrapped up in a self-guided salvation message. In short:

"... by employing technology we can take hold of the evolutionary process and change it as we desire, thus becoming the masters of our future."²

Many transhumanists believe in a coming 'singularity', defined as; "... a point in a future time when technological change takes place so fast it produces ... the birth of a super-intelligence, the merging of Man and Machine."² Humanity

will be so linked together, we will transcend into a higher plane of existence. In essence it would be what some transhumanists have described as the 'Techno Rapture'. What would the result be?

Leading transhumanist Mark Pesce (a co-inventor of 3-D interfacing for the worldwide web, and a judge on ABC's TV show *The New Inventors*) posits the following; "... we seek ... translation to incorruptible form ... therefore, to bless ourselves with perfect knowledge and perfect will; to become as gods, take the universe in hand, and transform it in our image—for our own delight. As it is on Earth, so it shall be in the heavens. The inevitable result of incredible improbability, the arrow of evolution is lipping [*sic*] us into the transhuman—an apotheosis to reason, salvation—attained by good works."²

Science used properly

Some have said that Christians are against 'science' that could improve quality of life. However, the idea of using technology to enhance human living is a practical and biblical concept, as we now live in a sin-cursed world and need to use whatever means possible to help overcome disease, etc. The Genesis 1:28 dominion mandate and Jesus' temporarily reversing disease and even death through His miracles are our example. This demonstrates Christian 'philosophy' influencing scientific practice properly. However, this does not extend to people harming other humans for convenience (abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, 'therapeutic' human cloning, etc.). Science can be misused and this is the case with some transhumanist ideas.

The dark side

Although transhumanists emphasize the seemingly beneficial aspects of their beliefs, the obvious ties to the eugenics movement are clear.³ For some it seems an 'ends justifies the means' approach is taken. As human cloning researcher, Richard Seed wrote: "We are going to become Gods. Period. If you don't like it, get off. You don't have to contribute; you don't have to participate. But if you're going to interfere with me becoming God, we're going to have big trouble. Then we'll have warfare."⁴

Using Darwinian principles to 'improve' mankind is an entirely logical premise if one thinks that man is the ultimate

authority. Why not give evolution a hand? Such help could even be regarded as part of the evolutionary process itself.

But the concept of engineering a better race has been tried before, and the horrific consequences of social Darwinism have been thoroughly documented in societies like Nazi Germany.

Marginal or mainstream?

The transhumanist group *Technolife's* website contains a video⁵ stating; "... who will settle for normal when you can be perfect? ... Superior bodies and minds, bodies without pain, without limits ... now we can offer you to be happy, healthy, beautiful and forever young."

Many might consider transhumanism a fringe movement except for the fact that the website quoted above represents a research project funded by the European Union.⁶

Have you been assimilated?

A future where all mankind's problems are solved (no tears, no pain, no struggle

for existence, no conflict), new, perfect bodies and minds, eternal life. Sounds great doesn't it!? The problem is that all transhumanism's hopes and dreams are built on a lie; evolution.

The concept of evolution is being constantly implanted into the consciousness of mankind. Similar to the victims of the Borg in *Star Trek* where the true identity of the victim was overwritten, once someone has been implanted with the concept of evolution, they can quickly get assimilated into an anti-God philosophy and be hard to lead back to truth.

Blessed hope

Mankind's greatest hopes and dreams can indeed be achieved, but not by ourselves. People can one day be free of all tears, pain, mourning and even death. They will have a new incorruptible body and will live in paradise, but not because of what we will have done, but because of what our Saviour Jesus Christ has done.

But this promise will only be extended to those that have repented

of their sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ, the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of the Universe. ■

References and notes

1. Excuse Me, Is Your Tooth Ringing? by Lakshmi Sandhana, www.wired.com, June 2002.
2. Teichrib, C., The Rise of Techno-Gods: The Merging of Transhumanism and Spirituality, *Forcing Change* 4 (10):2, 2010, page 2, forcingchange.org.
3. See Grigg, R., Eugenics ... death of the defenceless: The legacy of Darwin's cousin Galton, *Creation* 28 (1):18–22 2005, creation.com/eugenics.
4. Quoted from the movie *Technocalyps*, a three-part documentary on trans-humanism by Belgian filmmaker Frank Theys (available on YouTube.com)
5. Youtube.com/watch?v=STiuB7nQn1w, 22 November 2010.
6. The EU is an economic and political union of 27 member states located primarily in Europe including the UK, France, Germany, Sweden, etc.

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