

II – YOUR DUTY TO CONTROL.

There is on the surface of the Earth, a completely classical and, at the same time, a perfectly abnormal DNA. It is the only one of millions of formulae that can challenge the Earth's species and thus reduce the admirable diversity of nature's informal creations of information.

DNA in two stages...

Every plant and every animal is the result of the execution of a precise sequence of recorded information. This very long sequence of instructions is coded in the form of deoxyribonucleic acid macromolecules. Each living species thus has its own DNA formula. It is endlessly reproduced in an identical form, in the same way, with occasional changes in its details, but always in the direction of ecological consolidation.

However annoying this may be, we must accept the fact that each DNA formula that exists on Earth, has as its sole logic, the indefinite maintenance of the formula itself, without the particular fate of concrete beings bearing any weight whatsoever.

The DNA in question here is the one which carries the reproductive information of the ordinary human being. This 'ordinary' living being is also abnormal: he is capable of producing and maintaining a wealth of information describing well-defined non-biological objects!

It is true that insects, mammals and even fish produce technical objects, but always under genetic control. The latest generation manages all technology at the direct level of an individual or a group of individuals. The *Homo Sapiens*' DNA only provides the physical and mental means of management. Over time, this insignificant novelty will prove to be vertiginous, because, as we can now see quite clearly, the potentialities of the new kind of technical object seem infinite...

These potentialities will prove to be threatening. Everyone is aware of the dangers in question: endemic pollution, greenhouse effects, depletion of resources, extinction of flora and fauna, and so forth. But it would be absurd to attribute these perils simply to 'human folly'.

The unprecedented surge in technical production is evident everywhere. However, the strong driving force behind this tidal wave remains too unappreciated. It is very clearly the DNA of *Homo sapiens* in its

two most fertile programmes: the instinct to reproduce and, last but not least, the instinct for material power. For tens of thousands of years, the destiny of the human being has depended almost entirely on the quality of his genetic information, which was essentially received from his biological foundation. The non-biological, in other words the 'Technical Presence', has long required only modest complementary programming. This was all that was needed to extend omnivorous predation, feed the reproductive reflex, add to gregariousness, and arm the need for domination.

Much later, basic agriculture arrived and redirected towards the future the old desire for day-to-day security planning. It gave rise to the instinct to possess and, in others, to the genius of dispossession. This is how human societies have prospered (1). This was enough for thousands of years – and could have been enough indefinitely, were it not for the evolutionary potential of technical objects.

Thus a strange symbiosis has been set in motion, eating away at the animal and plant hegemony of old. While the best genetic programming exalts technical proliferation, the latter, in return, favours macromolecular proliferation. The mechanical alliance between the Nervous System and the Technical Object is spontaneous and highly productive: more and more technique produces more and more DNA – and more and more DNA produces more and more techniques. The phenomenon is devoid of any DNA directive this time around. Of course, the blind reciprocity installed in this way is not human in the noble sense of the word.

Quite the contrary – the growing technical and genetic intertwining have tended to reduce the fragile civilisations of the past, benefitting new barbarisms. By its very nature, the adult Technical Presence requires a versatile cerebral portage. Its effectiveness depends on a logical grasp of the immediate environment and, well beyond that, of the visible and the invisible. Grey matter tends to comprehend the world while explaining it to others. Hence the millennial accumulation of cultures followed by civilisations - it is this typically human heritage that is being undermined and threatened with collapse. There was a time, barely gone, when humanity lived by itself and for itself – without sharing. Now humanity is frenetically creating non-humans Information on a large scale. Is that not the way to lose its genius?

(1) André Collot, *Ventres pleins, ventres creux ; esquisse d'une écologie de l'homme*. (Full bellies, empty bellies – an outline of man's ecology) Gallimard, 1980.

The aspiration to humanism should hardly expect any political, economic or religious powers to restrain or soften such co-evolution. As for the spin-offs from the technical-genetic coupling, they are the lungs and muscles of those institutions, whether large or small – their blood being the electronic flow of information. A question arises: does global industrialisation and the over-distribution of goods and services respect the deep wealth buried in the *Homo sapiens*' DNA? Or do they merely respond to the atavistic inclinations and superficial desires of consumers who are deemed to be gullible?

A collective awareness can only begin with individual awareness. But it seems very difficult to say to everyone: don't forget your duty to control; preserve your honour as a human being. You are above all, one of the custodians of humanity, not the mere product of a turbulent molecular evolution. If there is a conclusion that is accessible, it is the one that refers to a very personal obligation of lucidity. Unfortunately, no one can kill off obsolete genes! We must simply try to restrain them. Do not be fooled either by what is biological or non-biological.

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