

Hope for Humankind

Written by Roderic Gorney, M.D., Ph.D.

Thursday, 01 September 2016 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 15 September 2017 07:08

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Cultures and Societies

Cultures and societies like parents are not all equal in their ability to provide and receive love. Those that are the most and least favorable for healthy, loving character development show several identifiable trends. One is the prevalence or absence of imposed inequalities, such as those which discriminate between individuals for the purpose of exploitation. Another is

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If we want to know what we are born for, we must first know what we are born as: the virtuoso nurturers of the planet who are fundamentally designed to live as though to live and love are one. ASHLEY MONTAGU

Instead, we have increasingly come to accept as normal that we must take advantage of, rather than take care of, each other. It is these unloving and decidedly abnormal deeds which have brought about the poverty, pollution, and violence of our current world reality. And because 12,000 years seems to us like forever, most of us have no awareness that only 500 generations ago our human relationships were so much more loving.

Solutions

Based on all this, if we are determined to cure our troubles, what must we do? First, we must relinquish our much-prized despair—the excuse for not risking the possible disappointment of trying and failing.

Second, we must give up the wholly erroneous (though comforting) rationalization for our brutality: that it is the legacy of our primate forebears. They were no doubt generally at least as egalitarian, peaceable, and loving toward one another as are present-day apes—as was our own species until 12 millennia ago, when our mismanagement of agrarian surpluses set us on our present destructive course.

Third, in Ashley Montagu's words, If we want to know what we are born for, we must first know what we are born as: the virtuoso nurturers of the planet who are fundamentally designed to live as though to live and love are one. (W love ti

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Specific Results

What would it mean specifically? It would mean (barring unlikely contraindications) putting each baby to the breast of his or her mother at the moment of birth and doing everything else possible to strengthen the mother's and baby's joy in each other and, in that way, launching healthy character development that will continue throughout life.

It would mean teaching children around the world how to think soundly rather than what to think mechanically. It would mean teaching them to test for themselves the proposition that evolution has prepared us not for acquisitive violence but with the innate value to become sharing, warm⁵

