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“Like most tropes, this one didn’t come out of nowhere. In purely biological terms, men are more expendable than women because 1 male and 10 females can produce 10 times the offspring of 1 female and 10 males. In primitive times when epidemics were far more common and relatively few people survived to adulthood ‘women and children first’ was not just misandristic bragadocio, it was a matter of basic survival. Societies that didn’t protect their women tended to expand more slowly and die out more easily than those that did.” – TVTropes.org, “Men are the Expendable Gender”¹

Birkenhead Drill: e.g., Smurfette. Anthropology 101: Expendability Theory: A theory that suggests men will tend to do more dangerous jobs (especially combat) because the loss of a man is less disadvantageous reproductively than that of a woman. *Google it.* Smurfs are extinct.

- ✓ “In 1852, HMS Birkenhead was wrecked at Gansbaai while bringing reinforcements to the war at the request of Sir Harry Smith. As the ship sank, the men (mostly new recruits) stood silently in rank, while the women and children were loaded into the lifeboats. They remained in rank as the ship slipped under and over 300 died.” – from Wikipedia article, “Xhosa Wars,” captured June 15, 2019.²

Whether we acknowledge it or not, this is still the central issue to women serving in the military, especially in combat roles. It goes to the core of our psychology, how many women actually want to be in the infantry, artillery, or tanks? So the feminist argument in this case is one of principle (equality of opportunity and treatment), rather than reality.

Most viewers – especially the younger ones – may not have given it much thought when the dodo yelled, “There goes the last female!” in *Ice Age* (2002) as they all went over the cliff.

- ✓ If any human male asks why women and children first, he should go with the women and children.³

“You have repeatedly condemned my triage philosophy as being too lenient, too soft. It is not. Triage is, and has always been, a concession to the inevitable, not premeditated mass-murder. Twenty-five years ago, in the white heat of a new crusade, we set a rather idealistic goal: semi-immediate reversal of runaway overpopulation.

We were dismayed to find it not that simple. How can an illiterate Third Worlder, whose single recreation in an otherwise drab existence is sex, be persuaded to remain chaste during his wife’s fertile period?”

– William Walling, “Triage” (short story, 1976)

Triage: Basic Triage categories: 1) Those who will die even if they receive immediate medical care, 2) those who will die if they do not receive immediate medical care, and 3) those who will not die if they do not receive immediate medical care.

- ✓ “In advanced triage, specially trained doctors, nurses and paramedics may decide that some seriously injured people should not receive advanced care because they are unlikely to survive. It is used to divert scarce resources away from patients with little

chance of survival in order to increase the chances for others with higher likelihoods. The use of advanced triage may become necessary when medical professionals decide that the medical resources available are not sufficient to treat all the people who need help. The treatment being prioritized can include the time spent on medical care, or drugs or other limited resources. ...

In these extreme situations, any medical care given to people who will die anyway can be considered to be care withdrawn from others who might have survived (or perhaps suffered less severe disability from their injuries) had they been treated instead. It becomes the task of the disaster medical authorities to set aside some victims as hopeless, to avoid trying to save one life at the expense of several others.” – from Wikipedia article, “Triage,” captured August 26, 2019.

In the William Wallace story, certain parts of the world that were on the verge of collapse due to failure to check runaway overpopulation could be denied U.N. assistance from the limited remaining resources, and allowed to collapse. There was a political-ideological war in the U.N. agency over application vs. racism.

- ✓ “Despite our sanctions, proscriptions, lawful executions and extensive triage judgments; despite floods, earthquakes, plagues, and the farther encroachment of deserts upon our remaining arable soil, there are now some twenty-five thousand more human beings on Earth than the nine and three-quarter billions we could not feed last week. And you tell me all’s right with the world.” – William Walling, “Triage” (short story, 1976).

“I pity your wife if she thinks six minutes is forever.”

– Freddy Mercury’s character, *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018)

Reproductive Consciousness: Pornography, masturbation, and prostitution are about recreational sex without consequences, more or less. Eroticism and sensuality are about psychological needs; lovemaking is about all three. Sexual intercourse is only about bonding and reproduction (reproduction does not require love⁴), bonding is only about having two or more humans to raise the young.⁵ These are the three legs upon which the continued procreation of humanity stands.

Contraception and modern pornography, and millennia of accidental and inadvertent pregnancies, and attempts to moralize and control reproduction, demonstrate amply that reproduction is not the main human desire, but rather we desire the reproductive activities that just happen, as a side consequence, to lead to reproduction. As serendipitous as this revelation may seem to the modern mind, this is a fundamental reality which, more often than not, humanity sees only in afterthought; sex is a recreational exercise and psychological need. This is the human dichotomy.

- ✓ Again, the plethora of Why Not questions govern human sexuality; why not have sex with whomever you like, why not have sex with your friend’s girlfriend, why not masturbate, why not have sex with your brother, sister, cousin, mother or father, why not have sex with your students, why not have group sex, why not have sex with someone who doesn’t consent? *Camraderie amoureuse*?
 - “Here sexual union and family, there freedom or promiscuity” – Émile Armand (d. 1963), the early 20th Century French anarchist of *free love*.

Contraception places a barrier between the act, momentary gratification and long term consequences, both personal for parents and child, and for civilization. This changed Western sexuality and relationships to the horror of conservatives by removing the danger of reproduction while maintaining the gratification of psychological needs. Theoretically, this might have led to better long term bonding, but it hasn't as other primal drives remain active in young adult humans.

It is perhaps the cruelest joke that most of us were not 'intended' to be here, that the possibility was not considered in the moment and only half-mindedly afterward. That we were the after effect of a momentary gratification. It seems that 'nature' intended us not to be responsible for creation for which we could not possibly obtain permission – except that is backwards – rather that it was a necessary development for the procreation of life that it either be 'mindless,' involuntary (as an amoeba) or propelled by gratification.

- ✓ Is any *quid pro quo* involving sex automatically prostitution? Suppose by sworn court testimony it is established that after a husband bought a house in both their names, and they moved into the house, on the first night in the house, the wife felt like having sex and they did have sex. And it was in main part because they finally had a house of their own, and she felt secure being the co-owner. Is this *quid pro quo* or just normal bonding-reproductive behavior of humans (what some call romance and love)? You might argue that I am stretching the point of *quid pro quo* in relation to sex, the modern usage of the term carries an expectation that the arrangement is explicit. But, there is nothing in the translation of the phrase that implies that it must be explicit, it can be implicit or even accidental or natural. For example, the species of energetic little birds whose males build nests on the ground (they like anything blue) solely for the purpose of attracting and mating females, and they mate as many as they can!
- Domesticated Animals: It is not entirely certain, prehistorically, *when humans began to understand that sex leads to reproduction* – an understanding called reproductive consciousness – which seems to be unique to humans. Some believe that domestication of animals first led to understanding the connection. Without modern science, the causal relation might be less obvious than it would seem, due to the relaxed fertility cycle of human females, the long gestation periods of human reproduction, and perhaps, youthful promiscuity and the fact that every act of copulation does not immediately lead to pregnancy (no 1:1 correlation between the act and the result). It is possible, though disputed, that some isolated tribes studied by anthropologist in modern times, may have attributed pregnancy to magic or acts of the gods, while regarding sex as a social activity. Even with modern understandings, the moment of contraception remains magical as we still cannot create life out of non-living matter.
 - ✓ In the 1967 hit song "I Think We're Alone Now" by Tommy James and the Shondells, the young adults think the parents don't understand what they are doing and what they want to do, but it is just the opposite; the parents know exactly what they are trying to do, and the children do not: They seek the momentary gratification.

It is thus that only humans can *intend* reproduction of ourselves and the animals we control – because of reproductive consciousness; the latter being the source of dog, cattle and horse breeding, and cat fancy.

- ✓ Allow your mind to range for a minute over the implications of understanding the connection between the sexual encounter and birth (vs. not understanding). Is there

any part of humanity that has not been touched by this understanding? History, family relationships, inheritance, crime, food, medicine, politics, ethnicity, race, religion, drama, law. It is a profound understanding equal in all ways to knowing that we can control and make fire (discussed in *The Secret of Fire*, 3 Technology, p. 721, *infra*).

We naturally watch animal documentaries from our perspective; it is not entirely clear, and somewhat unlikely, that the animals themselves perceive the cause and effect of their actions; that mating season driven by instinctive behavior, leads to young members of the species later. Nor do they likely see the larger picture of the march of the seasons, being mainly concerned with the here and now, daily survival. Causal understanding has two elements, memory of what happened, and inference or reasoning, with the results eventually confirmed or dismissed by testing or continued observation. Do animals actively remember the activity of mating?

- ✓ “They [dogs and cats] don’t even understand, we are sure, any relationship between a sexual encounter and pregnancy and birth, and therefore, cannot understand the necessity or techniques for interfering with the process. They seem closed off from their own mortality and the peril of it all. That level of comprehension would appear to be ours alone.” – Roger Caras, *A Cat is Watching* (1989), p. 208.⁶

Sapient understanding of death, our own death, an abstraction since we will not actually experience it and live to write about it, is a major step toward seeing the meaninglessness, comprehending the Existential Void. The inability to connect the sexual encounter with pregnancy and birth, probably indicates a lack of “autobiographical memory” and “extended self-conception” advanced as central pillars of human consciousness (which is locally co-extant with sapience and personhood, Daniel Dennett) by Prof. Antonio Damasio (Jason Pontin, “The Importance of Feelings,” MIT Technology Review, June 17, 2014). See full feature quote, 3 The Big Bang, p. 9, *supra*.

Although it cannot be ruled impossible that a technologically advanced species would not automatically possess reproductive consciousness, it might be fun to try in the game, though the operational consequences are not immediately clear. Reproductive consciousness is so fundamental to the human condition currently that we would automatically assume that any sapient species we encounter would be firmly in possession of the same consciousness.

- ✓ Autobiographical memory and extended self-conception does not extend to preexistence: A human doesn’t remember being born (or before being born, which is absurd) and does not know when they will die. And that makes us no different than cats, dogs or any other living creature. Other than the common, accepted, observed fact of birth and death, hospitals and graveyards, each human would have no idea that they have not always existed – other than their parents’ claims – or that they will not always exist, other than seeing death around them (and humans are carnivores, which makes it necessary for survival). Without such communication (which humans could provide if they had the ability to understand), cats and dogs don’t know they have not always existed if they ever thought of it. It has usually been considered quite probable that non-sapient species do not have this extended awareness, and to the extent that they consider it, each has always existed and always will, and thus they cannot see the Void. Metaphysics and religions simply keep and reinforce in humanity that animal

blindness to the Void by moving it to a realm beyond the now and the physical, so that we can think – with varying sincerity – that we will always exist in some form.

- Notice that Western religions talk about the ‘afterlife’ but never a ‘pre-life’?

- What Is, Is: If male cats were self-absorbed with moralities, absurdism, Kantian imperatives, and meanings, there would be no more kittens in the world. I might even go so far as to suggest that male cats don’t know what a female cat *is*; as Chaki Kobayashi (see excerpt *What is a Tree?* in *Persistence of Existence*, *supra*) pointed out, perhaps inadvertently, the *what is* of anything is an interesting concept in and of itself. To the male cat, the female cat *is* that smell which at certain times makes him fight and do other instinctive behaviors which we call mating (or the sexual encounter, as Roger Caras called it), the female cat *is* the one who wants to do that thing against his belly sometimes that the male cat wants to do any time.⁷ The female cat *is* the one who wants to love up against him when he comes up and *is* the one who wants to play sometimes and he doesn’t mind.

That is different, of course, from what the kittens think a female cat *is*; there really is no such thing to the kittens: There is only mother caregiver, siblings, and all other things in the world which might be an existential threat, food, or something to play with and pounce. To us, who have reproductive consciousness, extended awareness, autobiographical memory, sapience, etc. – and no sexual-reproductive interest in female cats (don’t even go there, Catan ‘wood-for-sheep’ people) – the female cat *is* the sex of the species that bears and cares for kittens, the ‘mother’ of the future. As Chaka Kobayashi might ask, is the male cat dumb? Dumber than us? Whose *is is*?

The notion of a childbearer and sexual reproduction is so engrained in creatures above amoeba – an amoeba is not considered an animal – because it has been wildly successful in evolutionary terms and ingrained in our psychology such that we cannot imagine otherwise. The *non-childbearing role is the definition of the male* biological sex – the essence of ‘maleness’ – for most people, and since the dawn of sapience (to which we made deities and mythologies), though biologist may have a slightly different definition due to natural oddities such as the sea horse.

But, of course, we do know of asexual reproduction (e.g., fission, budding, spores) without ‘childbearing’ in the sense that we think of it, and according to the Wikipedia article on the subject (January 13, 2019), approximately half the phyla in the animal kingdom, up to snakes and reptiles, have displayed asexual reproduction, though there had to be a childbearer (i.e. a female) in those cases. Anyway, GGDM makes no assumption or specification (with the exception of some Fundamental Realities) as to whether reproduction is sexual or asexual, or whether any member of the species is a childbearer, female, or other. This may impact, for example, Black-ops, see ‘honey trap’ feature quote bottom p. 1291 and discussion in *Bees, Bears and Sci-Fi, 2 Special Operations*, p. 1292 *infra*, if the participants *choose to look*.

- What It Isn’t: The stark dividing wall between mainstream filmmaking and pornography is unsimulated sex. For example, the spectrum from actual prostitution to lap dancers to strip tease performers. While this may seem serendipitous to the reader, it is taken quite seriously and marks the single, most enduring cognitive divide of human literature and art since the beginning. Though the wall has eroded slightly over the last 50 years (beginning with Andy

Warhol's Blue Room (1960)) in the film industry, it is still very much intact, but there remains an odd, contorted relationship between the two poles: While more 'mainstream' productions have *slowly* featured more unsimulated sex (and increased 'gratuitous' nudity and simulated sex), porn *quickly* moved exclusively into the video niche, generally abandoning in the last 30 years all pretense of mainstream filmmaking, storytelling, sets and costumes, or even erotic art and sensuality (though, in the larger picture, there are always historical cycles). As one critic pointedly said, there is nothing sexy about modern porn.⁸

The evolution of the movie Caligula (1979) from mainstream Roman movie (as *political satire*) with mainstream actors (it featured veteran actors Peter O'Toole, Malcom McDowell, and Helen Mirren) and production quality – to which was added first violence and simulated sex, and finally unsimulated sex (i.e. pornography) is a fascinating example, and caused Gore Vidal and Tinto Bass to subsequently disown the movie.

- ✓ See related Good Vibrations discussion, 7 Beginnings, p. 69, *supra*.
 - ✓ See also Neurotic Religion and Temple Prostitution discussion, 4 Culture, pp. 412, 415, *infra*.
- Fuzzy Places: Science-fiction literature has long vaguely suggested here and there that intellectual maturity of the human race and/or future evolution would lead either to an end of reproduction or an end of natural reproduction. The back basis for this ranges from early 20th Century ideas of the separation of intellect and bestiality – in these futures, intellect wins and human bestial drives fade – to full embrace of Kantian imperatives and anti-natalist arguments. Population control and advanced anagathics are often also cited. At the other end of this is extinction. To adapt a Nick Bostrom-like argument, which is the greater moral imperative – to avoid the harms of individuals being born into this world without consent – the anti-natalist argument – or to avoid extinction of humanity – as Bostrom suggests? See Derek Parfit and Nick Bostrom, The Unicorn Song, 1 Resolution, p. 1461, *infra*.
- ✓ As mentioned previously, so far as we know, only humans can intend to reproduce, whether they happen to be thinking about it at that moment or not, they know it is a possible consequence. This is enough to place them on a shelf separate from all that we know. It is thus possible for humans to cause their own extinction through choice. Does every sapient life in the universe end in that way? If so, Fermi Paradox solved. Or is it part of the emergent evolution of the universe (see fractures discussion, Fourth Frame, 1 Entropy, p. 226, *supra*) that over time, the basic drives of life in the universe will be supplanted by choice by lifeforms on whether or not to continue reproducing?
 - ✓ Anti-natalism is thus a function of human consciousness, sapience, recognition of birth and death, mortality and reproductive consciousness which *makes the blameless in animals blameworthy in humans*. At least until the time of Malthus, the attitude was that we should just be like the animals, blameless for reproduction even if conscious of it. Reversion to being like the animals or attempts to be so blameless have never worked out for humans; we cannot go back to being animals any more than we can revert to our childhood innocence. We are stuck with our sapient consciousness.
 - ✓ 🕯 “When the candles are out, all women are fair.” – Plutarch, Conjugal Precepts.⁹🕯

“There are three forms of sexual coercion that researchers have documented in both human and nonhuman primates: harassment, intimidation, and forced copulation. Harassment is the most common and results when males make repeated attempts to mate that imposes costs on females, intimidation is the use of physical violence inflicted on females who refuse to mate with a given male, and forced copulation (or ‘rape’ in the human literature) is the least common form that involves violent restraint for immediate mating.

The researchers found convincing evidence that the first two forms of sexual coercion (but not the third) increased the long-term reproductive success among males in Japanese macaques, baboons, and our closest evolutionary relatives the chimpanzees. This suggests that, at least for these three species, sexual coercion has been selected as an adaptive strategy in male sexual behavior. But what about humans? This is a difficult question to answer since, for reasons of privacy, researchers can’t very well study human sexuality by stationing a field researcher in our bedrooms.”

– Eric Michael Johnson, “The Science of Sexism: Primate Behavior and the Culture of Sexual Coercion,” *Scientific American* (blogs), July 20, 2011 ^{10,11}

Unnatural Selection: ‘Unselected male’ is a scientific term for a male who has not proved his fertility (see Moving Parts, 4 Taxation & Census, p. 331, *supra*), but the term also carries with it a load of profundity: It is the female of the species who selects, it is the female – as the child-bearer – who decides and consents to sex throughout the animal kingdom.

Many young human males cannot accept this fact; fear that the female may select another (or fear of remaining unselected) is the primary force behind societal controls on female reproduction, male dominance hierarchy, restrictions on female clothing, movement and occupations, arranged marriages and bride kidnapping. No other species – with the possible exception of some observed instances among apes in the wild – commits rape or imprisons females.

- ✓ Rape is, by definition, a circumvention of the natural order, to force selection on the female (bearing in mind, however, that sex is a psychological need and reproduction an afterthought).
- ✓ Rape is only possible because of the relaxed fertility cycle of female humanity (i.e. the fact that humanity does not have a ‘mating season’¹² like other species, that human females are sexually available most of the time) and different physiology: In all other species, it would do the male no good (reproductively) to force a sexual encounter on the female who is not ready to submit.

Most human males learn, eventually, that it is a far better experience when the female chooses; studies have shown that females who like the guy they have sex with are more likely to orgasm, and the female orgasm plays an important multi-part role in reproduction. Thus, human reproduction is adapted such that the nice guy wins, in an evolutionary sense.¹³

Rape is, of course, not likely to occur between humans and aliens (any more so than humans and non-human animals ... don’t go there! No bad Settlers of Catan jokes!), and is rarely if ever depicted in science-fiction or space-opera literature except where the aliens are parasitic and use humans as hosts (and even then, it is not sexual rape, but predatory assault). See previous discussion of crossbreeding in GGDM in Pan-Galactic Pornography, 5 Beginnings, p. 53, *supra*.

- Tears of a Woman: “Men tend to hate it when women cry – for reasons that they often have difficulty articulating. Now, new research suggests why – men may be biologically primed to react to a woman’s tears. According to a new study, even a whiff of these tears can dramatically reduce men’s testosterone levels and to a lesser extent, their sense of sexual arousal. With or without conscious awareness, women’s crying can just turn men off.” – Maia Szalavitz, *Time*, January 6, 2011.
- ✓ “Seeing tears clearly has an effect on people – it tends to turn anger into compassion. But scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science wondered if the effect was strictly visual. Might there be some chemical in human tears that was responsible for the urge to care for someone? ... But psychologist James Cherry of Boston University says though the Israeli study convinces him that there is some chemical signal, he isn’t convinced the chemical is only in the tears. ‘Certainly there are effects,’ he says. ‘But whatever substance or substances that may be there could be found in a lot of places. You just don’t know that.’ Cherry says the chemical could be in sweat or saliva. Psychologist Ad Vingerhoets of Tilburg University in the Netherlands has also been studying human tears. He says women’s tears may reduce male testosterone and sexual arousal, but that’s not the main effect. ‘It’s my hypothesis that tears [have] an effect not primarily on testosterone but on oxytocin,’ says Vingerhoets, referring to the hormone that promotes social bonding and caregiving.” – Joe Palca, “Smell That Sadness? Female Tears Turn Off Men,” *NPR*, January 7, 2011.
 - ✓ “Robert Provine, who studies the evolution and neural basis of behaviour at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Catonsville, says that the results are consistent with previous suggestions that crying could reduce aggression. Testosterone may be linked to hostility, and lowering aggression could be evolutionarily adaptive, he explains.” – Janell Weaver, “Women’s tears contain chemical cues,” *Nature*, January 6, 2011.

Unfortunately, our domesticated animals and pets can love but cannot cry (with the possible exception of elephants, “Elephant cries after rescue from 50 years of abuse”¹⁴), but their actions can arouse human anger, especially in the immature, intemperate types, and they often become the focal point of the moment for our anger and frustration at the universe, our life, ourselves, our children, our jobs, and other people. Pets have no tears for defense.

- Comparative Zoologies: I observe much cat behavior and socialization. An aggressive young wandering tomcat that I have seen a few times came onto my porch where my semi-feral outside cats gather and live. He first tried to force himself on a yearling female; she rolled over and he had to jump back to avoid having his tummy clawed by her hind legs and his nose swatted. Next he tried to run up behind an older female who understood well what was on his mind, before he got to her, she turned around and hissed and swatted, he barely avoided having his nose swatted again. Though most male cats don’t try to force females to mate, the behavior is not exclusive to primate males. Unlike humans, however, the other males present didn’t act to protect the females from him, they didn’t need it.

There is some limit to which human behavior can be compared to those of our favorite animals and sexuality and reproduction are the nexus of the argument. On one hand, zoologist (specifically Desmond Morris, see *Tyranny in the Nursery*, 3 Colleges, p. 491, *infra*) have demonstrated that much of human behavior is the same as other animals. On the other, what separates human behavior from those of other animals is our metaconsciousness and all that

comes with sapience. And reproductively, it is our reproductive consciousness that conflicts with the automatic mating behavior in other animals. So while human females are available for ‘mating’ more often than other species, the gestation period of human reproduction has extended beyond the seasonal mating of other animals, making greater demands on the parents, and in most humans, consciousness has changed the reproductive behavior. Both can be true in any given instant.

- **Nude Apes:** As a demonstration of how we are programmed by our culture, Dr. Fessler (my abnormal psychology professor) pointed out that sexual arousal from adult human nudity or the association of nudity with sex, only exists in cultures that have long had clothing.¹⁵ This has progressed to the point that the sight of bared female breasts alone causes mild to substantial arousal, in some historical and extremely conservative contemporary cultures female bared feet, bare necks, bare faces, and even bare hands in public are or have been in the past, considered scandalous. In cultures where clothing was not invented before the arrival of the Europeans, or where the female breasts are not covered, nudity or near complete nudity alone is not sufficient to cause sexual arousal in adult members of those societies.¹⁶ Consider the modern phenomenon of nudist camps where male arousal must quickly separate from nudity.

Heimdall: *I am conducting research into the genetic history of the Asgard.*

O’Neill: *Yeah, now see, that doesn’t sound like something worth dying for.*

Heimdall: *That is because you do not understand the gravity of the situation.*

O’Neill: *Feel free to enlighten us.*

Heimdall: *As a race, the Asgard reproduce exclusively through a process of enhanced cellular mitosis.*

Carter: *Are you serious? You have no other means of propagation?*

Heimdall: *No.*

[Carter looks surprised]

O’Neill: *Carter?*

Carter: *They’re clones, sir. All of them.*

O’Neill: *Ah. Well, that answers a few questions.*

Heimdall: *In fact, for nearly a thousand years, we have been physically incapable of achieving cell division through meiosis.*

[O’Neill looks questioningly at Carter]

O’Neill: *Hmm?*

Carter: *Sexual reproduction, Sir.*

O’Neill: *Ah. (to Heimdall) A thousand years?*

Heimdall: *It is not something we usually discuss with other races.*

O’Neill: *This I understand.*

Heimdall: *Through cloning we have achieved a measure of immortality. As each Asgard’s body fails, his consciousness is transferred into a newer, younger version of himself. Unfortunately, the lack of genetic diversity has become a problem.*

Carter: *It’s like making a copy of a copy of a copy. Eventually there’s deterioration.*

Heimdall: *We created a process of controlled mutation which has helped us to avoid complete genetic breakdown. But we are at the limits of our technical capabilities. The truth is, the Asgard are a dying race.*

– Stargate SG-1, “Revelations” (2002)

Brave New World: Technology brings with it the ability to control population growth (either by increasing or decreasing the rate of growth) in an orderly and peaceful manner (as opposed to war, starvation, disease, drugs, incarceration, and prostitution), however, *the will to do so is an entirely different matter*. Even while it may make sense to balance and even retard population growth on a planet, it has proven to be quite difficult to convince the population to curtail their power of reproduction.

✓ See Triage, *ut supra*, p. 334.

Conversely, when technology allows a civilization to explode into interstellar space – where the space and resources to grow is theoretically unlimited – there is little reason, generally, to retard population growth, except:

- 1) When the growth threatens the governmental control and overall political unity of the species, and
- 2) When it threatens to overwhelm the local systems and resources available on colony planets, e.g., in Controlled Environment Habitats, Colony Ships or Orbital Cities.

This brings the discussion back around to the sci-fi staple of being able to ‘build’ population by industrial means – clones, *in-vitros* (e.g., *Space: Above and Beyond* (1995-1996)), replicants (e.g., *Blade Runner* (1982)), and of course, cyborgs. The basic rules of the game prohibit it (for sanity purposes, see *View from a Height*, 1 Construction, p. 660, *supra*). It is not *impossible* to create by Patents the ability to ‘build’ population by use of RPs and the Colony Enhancement activation of the Construction Power (perhaps in conjunction with the Census Power) with all of the inherent existential questions to play out in the game.

✓ Among the myriad possible ramifications of widespread, industrial-scale cloning, the Dust sci-fi short, “The Replacement” (on YouTube, 2019) presents an interesting issue: The clone of a janitor becomes the first clone President of the United States. And orders a thousand more clones of himself. In fact, it is hinted that a significant part of the population is clones, and ‘originals’ are becoming uncommon;¹⁷ the media in the story treats the clone presidential victory as a civil rights victory.

In the game, positions may, of course, develop some technologies to increase, decrease, or mutate populations, however, the game makes the assumption that the ability to do so efficiently exists within the technology of the 1st Era (without having to create the technology in-game – unless players desire to develop the game in that way), so that mainly population growth is properly controlled by first, the frequency of the activations of the Census Power (and Maximum Habitability), and second, by use of Writs (which express the social and political will – see *It is Written*, 1 Writs, p. 435, *infra*) related to the activation of the Census Power.

✓ When asked why he reads Playboy magazine, Edward Bernays replied, “For the same reason I read the National Geographic, I like to see places I will never visit.” – L. Tyre, *The Father of Spin* (1998).

➤ **Technological Senescence:** The benefits of technological civilization: tobacco, alcohol, drugs, automation, food stuffs and drinks, cosmetics, dentistry, elective surgeries, Botox injections, and clothes, fashion and pop psychology, plentiful and cheap, and extended adolescence and delayed entry into the workforce, expanding life expectancy – have distorted our sense of normal human aging.

- ✓ “[Brandon Milholland] and his colleagues came to this conclusion by analyzing decades of longevity data from about 40 countries. As just about anyone could tell you, it has become increasingly common for those in wealthy nations to live to ages that once would have seemed impossible. For decades, the ages of the oldest living people were increasing over time – but that slowed and pretty much stopped by the 1980s. And the researchers found that, based on statistical trends, those who reach age 110 today do not have a longer life expectancy than individuals who reached the same age decades ago. The results may sound straightforward, but life span is a debated subject in the scientific community.” – Rachel Felton, “Are we approaching the limits of human life span?” Washington Post, October 6, 2019.¹⁸
- ✓ “The report says that if a human lifespan was extended beyond 125 years, it would require other scientific interventions beyond improving someone’s health. ‘Although there is no scientific reason why such efforts could not be successful, the possibility is essentially constrained by the myriad of genetic variants that collectively determine species specific lifespan,’ it says.” – Bianca Britton, “Humans Have Reached Their Lifespan Limit, Researchers Say,” The CNN Wire, October 6, 2016.

Our Bronze Age ancestors would not recognize us.

- ✓ “And you – with your aftershave lotion and your little red car, pushing papers across a desk all day and chasing tail all night – tell me, just how the hell do you think you would look to Tiglath-Pileser, say, or Attila the Hun?” – Frederik Pohl, “Day Million” (1966).¹⁹
- Assortative Mating: Pulling back the mask.
 - ✓ “Assortative mating is a mating pattern and a form of sexual selection in which individuals with similar phenotypes mate with one another more frequently than would be expected under a random mating pattern.” – from Wikipedia article, “Assortative mating,” January 12, 2019.

Assortative mating is a form of ‘natural unnatural selection’ that is available to animals of higher orders from snails to common toads to bluebirds (*Id.*); although snails don’t seem at first glance to be of a ‘higher order,’ they are relatively recent – about 550 million (i.e. more than half a billion) years ago – in the evolution of life on Earth, which is estimated to have begun 3.5 billion years ago.²⁰

- ✓ “... it took nature hundreds of millions of years to evolve bacterium, and billions of years to make a grasshopper” – Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*, Episode 5.

Assortative mating in animals requires at the least the sentience to distinguish characteristics between members of a species;²¹ assortative mating is a natural form of discrimination.

- ✓ Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *assortative mating*: nonrandom mating: such as **a**: mating between the more similar individuals of a population especially when regarded as a factor in evolutionary differentiation within a population **b**: selective mating between individuals whose choice of marriage partners is determined by similarity of social environment.

Although assortative mating has been well documented in other species, humans take it many steps further into the realm of sociocultural, educational and intelligence preferences. Assortative mating preferences in humans has been established by scientific data since around 1900. Dating match sites – the ones that pop up in internet banners and air television commercials in February – seem to be using very sophisticated assortative mating programs to match economic, education, and sociocultural personal profile inventories, and additionally, they have a huge database of the millions of past responses submitted to find socio-patterns. In the form of endogamy and extreme homogamy, inbreeding and assortative mating can intersect causing pedigree collapse (e.g., the famous Habsburg jaw).²²

Within the time scales of GGDM, assortative mating could display some strong local effects (e.g., see Frontier Drift, 3 Entropy, p. 246, *supra*) though probably not approaching truly evolutionary changes,²³ without the assistance of technology.

- ✓ “[Q] What can French and American women learn from one another about love? [A] *We can learn from French women to maintain a certain mystery in a relationship and to pay more attention to the aesthetics of one’s personal appearance and lovemaking. They can learn from us to be more direct in expressing our needs, whether they be in the kitchen, the bedroom, or the boardroom.*” – Mary Duncan interview with author Marilyn Yalom, “Love, Fidelity and Sex: French Style,” Huffington Post, January 23, 2014 (emphasis in original, article is free online).

Dr. Strangelove: *Naturally, they would breed prodigiously, eh? There would be much time and little to do. With the proper breeding techniques, and starting with a ratio of, say, ten women to each man, I should estimate the progeny of the original group of 200,000 would emerge a hundred years later as well over a hundred million. Naturally the group would have to continually engage in enlarging the original living space.*

General Buck Turgidson: *Doctor, you mentioned the ratio of ten women to each man. Now, wouldn’t that necessitate the abandonment of the so called monogamous sexual relationship, I mean, as far as men were concerned?*

Dr. Strangelove: *Regrettably, yes. But it is, you know, a sacrifice required for the future of the human race. I hasten to add that since each man will be required to do prodigious... service along these lines, the women will have to be selected for their sexual characteristics which will have to be of a highly stimulating nature.*

– Dr. Strangelove (1964)

Endnotes.

¹ Commentary: Not to mention that in a situation where there are ten human males and only one viable human female, the total population is likely to decrease significantly before it increases! Humans murder for reproduction.

² Commentary & Citation: This seemingly unbelievable account of stoic discipline and male chivalry is confirmed by quotes and citations in the Wikipedia article, “HMS Birkenhead,” to wit:

- ✓ “The surviving soldiers mustered and awaited their officers’ orders. Salmond ordered Colonel Seton to send men to the chain pumps; sixty were directed to this task, sixty more were assigned to the tackles of the lifeboats, and the rest were assembled on the poop deck in order to raise the forward part of the ship. The women and children were placed in the ship’s cutter, which lay alongside. Two other large boats (capacity 150 each) were manned, but one was immediately swamped and the other could not be launched due to poor maintenance and paint on the winches. This left only three smaller boats available. The surviving

officers and men assembled on deck, where Lieutenant-Colonel Seton of the 74th Foot took charge of all military personnel and stressed the necessity of maintaining order and discipline to his officers. As a survivor later recounted: ‘Almost everybody kept silent, indeed nothing was heard, but the kicking of the horses and the orders of Salmond, all given in a clear firm voice.’” *Id.*, citing to William Henry Giles Kingston (1899) and “The Wreck of H.M. Steamer ‘Birkenhead’ – 26 Feb 1852” at capeinfo.com.

- ✓ “Just before she sank, Salmond called out that ‘all those who can swim jump overboard, and make for the boats.’ Colonel Seton, however, recognising that rushing the lifeboats would risk swamping them and endangering the women and children, ordered the men to stand fast, and only three men made the attempt. ... The soldiers did not move, even as the ship broke up barely 20 minutes after striking the rock. Some of the soldiers managed to swim the 2 miles (3.2 km) to shore over the next 12 hours, often hanging on to pieces of the wreck to stay afloat, but most drowned, died of exposure, or were killed by sharks.” *Id.*
- ✓ “The order and regularity that prevailed on board, from the moment the ship struck till she totally disappeared, far exceeded anything that I had thought could be effected by the best discipline; and it is the more to be wondered at seeing that most of the soldiers were but a short time in the service. Everyone did as he was directed and there was not a murmur or cry amongst them until the ship made her final plunge – all received their orders and carried them out as if they were embarking instead of going to the bottom – I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion.” *Id.*, testimony of Captain Edward W. C. Wright of the 91st Argyllshire Regiment, reported by William Henry Giles Kingston, *Id.*

Neither ship captain Salmond nor Lt. Col. Seton survived the sinking, which was memorialized in a poem by Runyard Kipling called “Soldier an’ Sailor Too” (1893) – the term came to mean stoic discipline in such situations – and the protocol of ‘women and children first’ became standard evacuation in *all* circumstances. It *codified expendability* and a social expectation of civilized, calm, orderly male courage that is reflected in later fiction, e.g., *Star Trek* and *Titanic* (1997) where the musicians played cheery music while the women and children evacuated.

³ Commentary: **The bright line**: During the planning of the execution of the Romanov family in July 1918, the two guards who objected to shooting women and children were dismissed to their barracks by Yakov Mikhailovich Yurovsky for ‘failing to do their revolutionary duty.’ Would that give you pause about the revolution? But it happens all the time; the rationalization being that a few innocents will be killed now for a better world later.

⁴ Commentary: In this context then, the statements by Stormy Daniels in the belatedly published interview by InTouch Magazine are very revealing about our sexuality, casual sex and pornography:

- ✓ “So anyway, the sex was nothing crazy. He wasn’t like, chain me to the bed or anything. It was one position.... It was textbook generic. It wasn’t like, ‘Oh my God, I love you.’ He wasn’t like Fabio or anything. He wasn’t trying to have, like, porn sex... You know. It was one position, what you would expect someone his age to do. It wasn’t bad. Don’t get me wrong.”

Stormy Daniels has not done the female causes any good, she is certainly *not an icon of feminism*. She has basically told every boy in America what they can have if they are a celebrity billionaire; fortunately for her, the conversation has been about *the philanderer*, she has not been a scorned woman (to any extent more than is normal for a porn actress), forced to wear a Scarlett Letter on her chest or be publically slut-shamed (not possible considering her occupation): A Bill Clinton milestone to be *quietly* celebrated by feminists. She has also reduced the religious conservative family values caucus to shambles and shudders as they have had to issue a mulligan and perform a pretzel logic contortionist act in order to support *the philanderer* (stating that he is an “imperfect instrument of God” Ack!). I suspect that she is most pleased by this.

- ✓ This argument is in the same vein as the suggestion that sexploitation movie director Russ Meyer was inadvertently a feminist: “Film historian and Meyer biographer Jimmy McDonough posits that Russ Meyer’s usage of physically and sexually overwhelming female characters places him in his own separate genre. He argues that despite portraying women as sex objects, Meyer nonetheless depicts them as more powerful than men and is therefore an inadvertent feminist filmmaker.” – from Wikipedia article, “Russ Meyer,” December 18, 2018, citing to [Big Bosoms and Square Jaws: The Biography of Russ Meyer](#) (2005).

⁵ Citation & Commentary: “Their opinion might be roughly summarized in the words of Arnold Toynbee: ‘With the increase in our power, our sense of responsibility and our sense of distress increases.’ Toynbee has said that the growth of science and technology makes more acute the disparity between the real and the ideal.” – Brian Aldiss, [Galactic Empires, Vol. 1](#) (1976).

- ✓ Science and technology are more than just a thing, they are a worldview, a way of thinking – about everything. For example, is it possible that the demystification of sex, attraction, reproduction, has led to a greater division between the sexes than has ever existed before? The disparity between the real and the ideals of the participants creates the distress in the relationship? My personal experience, in hindsight, suggests strongly that is the case: The fantasy is always better than the reality.

⁶ Commentary: Extend this thought out a little: They probably don't see any causal connection between consumption of food and defecation. They probably don't see any causal connection between consumption of food and growing or getting fat like my housecats. They simply know they are hungry, and they eat, or hunt if necessary. Hunting and eating become a chicken and egg argument, they need to eat to hunt, and they need to hunt to eat and procreate. My cats are food dish predators. It also is not likely, from my experience, that they understand that biting and their claws cause pain, or possibly they don't understand that others feel pain; perhaps this is necessary for them as natural predators. Animals are notoriously short of understanding cause and effect relationships, which understanding humanity takes as a sign of sapience, abstract thought, foresight, the long view, experience, judgment.

⁷ Commentary: I have observed homosexual male cat behavior this spring, a friendly, but sexually aggressive male cat who comes to my porch sometimes was apparently confused about the gender of a small yearling male cat who lives on my porch and chased him around the neighborhood trying to mate with him. At other times when he has been on my porch, I have noticed that he showed no interest in the yearling female, but is obsessed with her brother. I have similarly observed homosexual behavior among my neutered male indoor cats – who were neutered as kittens, but have not observed the same with an outdoor male cat who was neutered as an adult (at about 2 yrs. old).

- ✓ Male dogs are notorious for homosexual behavior and I have witnessed several instances among my neighbor's big dogs. I believe the going theory as to male dogs is that it is not sexual as much as dominance.

⁸ Citation: “Ruminov does not consider *Love Machine* to be pornography. For him, it is an illustration of his idea of ‘new pornography.’ He refers to the contemporary Swiss-born and British-based philosopher Alain De Botton, famous for his promotion of complex philosophic ideas concerning love, sex and happiness. Quoting him, Ruminov sets an example of the perceptive integrity of a human being presented by the icon of the Virgin Mary made by painters of the Renaissance period. The admiration of the human body in the Renaissance led to present the Virgin Mary with nude breasts and a halo, unifying the separation of the corporal and the divine. And the icon of Virgin Mary inspired Ruminov for his future film.

Starting from the mid-1970s, society stopped to pretend that love and the relationship between a man and a woman is possible without sex. Erotic elements, sex and pornography took their place in mainstream cinema during the era of the sexual revolution, and allowed the appearance of such masterpieces as Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Tango in Paris* (1972) or Nagasi Oshima's *Empire of Passion* (1978). Today, erotic scenes are almost made obligatory by Russian producers to ensure commercial success. However, during the Soviet Union period the idea of sex was totally excluded from cinema, and only during perestroika the gate opened up to huge amounts of video pornography.

Since the end of the 1970s the pornographic industry does not really try to enter the world of cinematographic art, staying in the niche of video and serving very specific purposes. Such films usually deploy a very simple script and a limited number of angles for shooting that are edited in a primitive way. The pornography is often associated with perversity and shame. The last attempt to transgress the border between cinema and pornography was made in 2015 by Gaspard Noé with his film *Love*. By the time *Love* created an uproar at Cannes, Ruminov's film was almost completed and *Love* didn't influence it.

The idea of Ruminov's ‘new pornography’ is supposed to purify the perception of the naturalness of the human body from the morbid and aggressive views proposed by traditional pornography. However, is *Love Machine* pornography? According to one of the most important specialists on the question of pornography, Linda Williams, we can consider the film as ‘body genre,’ or even as ‘an extended rubric of melodrama, considered as a filmic mode of stylistic and /or emotional excess that stands in contrast to more ‘dominant’ realistic, goal-oriented narrative’ (Williams, 1991). *Love Machine* transgresses pornography: the story concentrates on Natal'ia Anisimova's crumbling world that attracts the spectator more than erotic scenes.” – Ksenia Konstantinova-Ragot, Université Paris VIII, review of “Pavel Ruminov: *Love Machine* (*Mashina liubvi*, 2016),” *KinoKultura*, Issue 54, October 8, 2016 (Creative Commons 3.0) (available free online).

- ✓ There are nearly a dozen movies listed with the title “*Love Machine*,” about one a year. This review refers to the experimental Russian language film. Other titles with the same name range from trashy psycho exploitation horror (literally, in one a psychiatrist using a beam machine to cause women to kill their husbands during sex) to comedy to sex robots (*à la* the Replicants in *Blade Runner*). Yeash!

- ✓ Not all such ‘new pornography’ efforts are appreciated in the West (whatever the requirements of Russian cinema), consider the following criticisms of the 2012 movie *Sexual Chronicles of a French Family* (gathered from Metacritic):
 - “Offers diverting date-night fare for open-minded heterosexual couples and swingers, though its superiority (artistic or otherwise) to actual porn is debatable.” – Dennis Harvey, *Variety* (score 50/100).
 - “It’s a celebration of libertine sexuality – nothing more, nothing less – and almost remarkably untroubled by any of the dramatic issues it raises. Much of its 79 minutes is spent marveling over how skillfully the actors simulate the real thing.” – Scott Tobias, *The AV Club* (score 42/100).
 - “A barrage of screwing with interludes does not yield a cohesive movie. Watching *Sexual Chronicles of a French Family*, the one-note idea grows increasingly evident, as does its absence of fresh ideas.” – Eric Kohn, *IndieWire* (score 42/100).
 - This latter also describes the problems with action movies cranked to the theoretical max. It is hard to have a coherent story or promote any thought or message in a movie that features over the top violence and action with a few interludes. Movie makers and tyrants both know this.

⁹ Commentary: If it were not for sex, there would be no love in the world. This is more than just a snarky male comment; you should give it more than a passing moment of thought. Your first love is the unconditional love of a mother (however short-lived), all else later is a transfer of the need for affection from another of the opposite sex. It is possible for something to seem snarky, but profound at the same moment. Just like after-sex commentary.

¹⁰ Commentary: This ‘harassment’ should not be taken quite in the same context as human females use the term; in the spring of 2020, a tomcat became obsessed with a very sociable neutered female who lives on my porch. I think she reciprocated a little of it, but cannot fully respond because she is neutered. He followed her around enthusiastically, even to the point of sleeping on top of the heated cat house in which she took refuge.

¹¹ Commentary: Since I was young, I have heard many men say, “I’m a boob man.” I have heard men say it around other men, I have heard men say it to women sometimes, and it has come up as comments made in a few well-endowed client sexual harassment cases I worked on over the years. I think it’s just an idiotic statement; every man is a boob man, to the point of even being used as a display of wealth and status (e.g., among the 10th Century Rus people, as reported by Ahmad ibn Fadlan). And so are women. It’s the most basic, infantile part of human sexuality.

- ✓ “Each woman wears on either breast a box of iron, silver, copper, or gold; the value of the box indicates the wealth of the husband. Each box has a ring from which depends a knife. The women wear neck-rings of gold and silver. Their most prized ornaments are green glass beads. They string them as necklaces for their women.” – Ahmad ibn Fadlan, as quoted in Gwyn Jones, [A History of the Vikings](#) (2001).
- ✓ The value of the materials in the box wasn’t the only thing on display, the size of the box probably mattered too! Imagine the weight of those things around the neck.

¹² Commentary: An annual activation of the Census Power... In a very strange way, ‘evolutionary progress’ can be thought of as the successive ability to activate new GGDM Vital Powers, just as evolution was taught backdoor in high school biology (without ever mentioning the word) by teaching the phyla of the animal kingdom in order from simplest to most complex. Every species begins with the Census Power.

¹³ Commentary & Citation: I guess it speaks to my view that I misheard a lyric in Ratt’s “I Want a Woman” (1988) for over 30 years, I heard, “I think I found out what means so much, baby’s tears and the woman’s trust!” I didn’t consider it inconsistent generally with the rest of the song (whose subject is romantic maturity) and actually thought it was a crowning lyric (despite Ratt’s appearance and overtly sexualized, testosterone driven, ebullient cocksure youthful, but very talented and smooth jazzy metal musical style). Most lyric sites have “I’m thinkin’ now down the week so much, Think the chances that that woman’s touch,” which doesn’t make a lot of lyrical sense to me, some others have “I’m think I got down what means so much, Fingertips with that woman’s touch” which at least makes better sense and is much closer to what I have (mis-)heard for years. I still like my interpretation better and will probably continue to mishear the lyric for the rest of my life.

¹⁴ Citation: “An elephant that spent 50 years in captivity cried real tears when wildlife conservationists staged a daring midnight rescue.” – Internet Broadcasting, July 8, 2014.

- ✓ “An elephant that was kept in chains for 50 years and abused by a drug addict who used the animal beg in India has been freed. Raju had been beaten and starved since being poached from the wild as a baby and resorted to eating paper and plastic to fill his stomach. The chains and spikes wrapped around his legs had left him with chronic wounds and arthritis and he was in almost constant pain. But now he is walking free for the first time after a daring rescue by conservationists with a court order by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to take the elephant from his abusive owner. The charity took Raju in the middle of the night on Thursday, supported by police and state officials. The elephant’s mahout and previous owner tried to stop him being taken by adding more chains and having people block the roads for the rescue lorry. Experts worked for hours to gain the elephant’s trust with fruit and encouragement until they could get him into the van that would take him to a sanctuary.” – Lizzy Dearden, “Elephant ‘cries’ while being rescued after 50 years of abuse in India,” Independent UK, July 7, 2014.
- ✓ “Raju’s captors layered tighter chains on him and attempted to confuse him by shouting commands, but their efforts proved futile. A team of 10 veterinarians and experts from Wildlife SOS along with 20 Forestry Commission officers and two policemen managed to rescue the abused elephant, according to the Mirror, a British tabloid. ‘Raju was in chains 24 hours a day, an act of intolerable cruelty. The team were astounded to see tears roll down his face during the rescue,’ Pooja Binopal, a spokesman for Wildlife SOS, said, per the Mirror. ‘It was incredibly emotional. We knew in our hearts he realized he was being freed. Elephants are majestic and highly intelligent animals. We can only imagine what torture the past half a century has been for him.’” – Cavan Sieczkowski, “Raju The Elephant Cries After Being Rescued Following 50 Years Of Abuse, Chains,” Huffington Post, July 7, 2014.
- ✓ The rescue video is on YouTube. Another elephant, Mohan, who was to be rescued with Raju ‘disappeared’ after the rescue, and was eventually located and rescued with another court order (Mark Molloy, “World’s unluckiest elephant’ finally free after 50 years in chains,” Telegraph UK, September 29, 2016).

¹⁵ Commentary: I was lucky to have Dr. Robert K. Fessler as my psychology instructor at Point Park College. I don’t think I realized entirely at the time how unusual was his approach, but it has grown on me over the years as I have matured intellectually. Dr. Fessler was a psychologist who had no love of psychiatry, he was on the other side of the ledger so to speak; I summarize that he felt they overplayed their hand, greatly inflated their claims of effectiveness. He used Richard Castillo’s Culture and Mental Illness (1997) as his course textbook, pointed out cultural differences in effective rates of use of psychiatric drugs, talked about the Soviet diagnosis of “Sluggish Schizophrenia” and political uses of clinical psychiatric confinement to suppress dissent, he introduced me to Rosenhan’s article and his course had an entire section on Viktor Frankl. He pointed out the amount of money spent on research of psychiatric drugs and the lack of important success in treating true mental disorders with them (as a paralegal, I later learned some of the dark relationship of doctors and drug companies, which are reflected in the Rosenhan article). He didn’t whitewash anything, when I expressed interest in pursuing a graduate degree in psychology at another university, he advised that it would be nothing like he taught in his courses, I would be doing Skinner boxes.

- ✓ The difference in outlook between psychiatry and psychology (and between mental sciences and religion) is more stark than most realize, consider the following encapsulation, by a *psychologist*, of contrasting views of what was through millennia past considered a mortal sin:
 - “Depression involves aversion to effort, and the moral danger of sloth lies in this characteristic. The work involved in exercising one’s will to make moral and spiritual decisions seems particularly undesirable and demanding. Thus the slothful person drifts along in habits of sin, convinced that he has no willpower and aided in this claim by those who persist in seeking only biological and environmental causes and medical remedies for sloth.” – Dr. William Backus, What Your Counselor Never Told You (2000), pp. 147-148, as cited in Wikipedia article, “Sloth.”
- ✓ On the matter of my extensive use of the Rosenhan report and Dr. Castillo in criticism of medicalized mental sciences throughout GGDM, one might argue that I was ‘conditioned’ to that point of view by my maverick college psychology professor. Fair enough, though I am also not without life experience – a half century worth – and in that sense my ‘conditioning’ has held up remarkably well! But to make that argument is to also, fairly, suggest that the arguer is also equally conditioned by their education to unquestioningly accept the validity of medicalized mental sciences as the profession is currently practiced and taught. We are all conditioned, that is a side effect of education and why honest debate is necessary.

¹⁶ Citation & Commentary: Our textbook for the course was Richard J. Castillo’s Culture & Mental Illness (1997). I believe this very phenomenon is discussed in the book, along with sexual mores of several wide-ranging cultures,

and as such, you can probably work out the connection with mental illness. In any event, I highly recommend reading this book. It was written as a companion to the DSM IV, and though newer DSMs have been issued, it is still relevant to the discussion.

- ✓ “Dr. Richard J. Castillo, Ph.D. Harvard University, Psychiatric Anthropology, was a cross-cultural adviser on the writing of DSM-IV, and has now written two companion works, Culture and Mental Illness: A Client-Centered Approach and Meanings of Madness: Readings on Culture and Mental Illness. Dr. Castillo is Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Castillo’s work involves the fields of Psychology, Psychiatry, Cross-Cultural Studies, Anthropology and Religion, and includes topics of mental illness and psychotherapy in all DSM-IV diagnostic areas, shamanism, and the cultural factors affecting dissociative disorders and the relationship of dissociative symptoms to schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. He presents a client-centered model of assessment and diagnosis based on a holistic paradigm that integrates known biological, psychological, social, and cultural factors.” – from <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~rcastill/welcome.html>.

¹⁷ Citation: The janitor (main character) says, “I feel like a horse after the car has been invented.”

¹⁸ Citation: “‘We cannot break through that ceiling,’ [Jan] Vijg says. ‘The take-home message essentially is this whole ever-increasing life expectancy of humans cannot go on.’ ... The researchers found that the age of the oldest people dying had indeed increased steadily between the 1960s and 1990s, according to their report. But beginning in the 1990s, ‘you no longer see that,’ Vijg says. ‘You see that it stays the same.’ The absolute maximum human life span may be as high as 125, the researchers calculated. But the chances of anyone actually living that long are less than 1 in 10,000. ... But, he added, ‘the take-home lesson from what we found is that the human species most likely has a maximum life span of about 115 and we cannot break through that ceiling, at least not as far as we now know.’” – Rob Stein, “Has The Human Life Span Hit the Ceiling?” NPR, October 5, 2016.

- ✓ “Vijg’s team concludes that there is a natural limit to human lifespan of about 115 years old. There will still be occasional outliers like [Jeanne] Calment, but he calculates that the probability of a person exceeding 125 in any given year is less than 1 in 10,000. The limit is surprising, says Vijg, given that the world’s population is increasing – supplying an ever-increasing pool of people who could live longer – and that nutrition and general health have improved. ‘If anything you would have expected more Jeanne Calments in recent years, but there aren’t.’” – Linda Geddes, “Humans May Have Already Reached Their Maximum Lifespan,” Nature Magazine, October 5, 2016.
- ✓ “Prof Jan Vijg, one of the researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, told the BBC News website: ‘In people over 105 we make very little progress, that tells you we are most likely approaching the limit to human life. For the first time in history we’ve been able to see this, it looks like the maximum life span – this ceiling, this barrier – is about 115.’” – James Gallagher, “Limit to human life may be 115 (ish),” BBC News, October 5, 2016.
 - Queen Elizabeth II is currently 92 years old and Prince Philip is 97 years old. The Queen Mother lived to 101 years old.
- ✓ “For the first time in more than two decades, life expectancy for Americans declined last year – a troubling development linked to a panoply of worsening health problems in the United States. Rising fatalities from heart disease and stroke, diabetes, drug overdoses, accidents and other conditions caused the lower life expectancy revealed in a report released Thursday by the National Center for Health Statistics. In all, death rates rose for eight of the top 10 leading causes of death.” – Lenny Bernstein, “US life expectancy decreases for the first time since 1993,” Washington Post, December 8, 2016.

¹⁹ Commentary: There is an argument that keeps cycling round every decade, that electric lights interfere with and delay the human circadian rhythm. And that interior heating has interrupted our seasonal rhythms. The argument is both not quite accepted empirically but also hard to deny in existential observation. I remember seeing a news report on studies of third-shift workers, specifically, it focused on salt mine workers in Utah. It is well-known that third shift disrupts lives, both internally and externally, few people do it for long, everyone who gets an opportunity at a regular weekday job jumps off the third-shift merry-go-round (e.g., the low-paying, third-shift job at an always open McDonalds or CoGo’s store, or even graveyard shift contract security, which I worked many times). Most places that care about their workers, especially professionally-trained, licensed workplaces or places subject to malpractice liability (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, and first responders – because stupidity, chaos, and carelessness never take a night off), find ways to rotate workers’ shifts to avoid third-shift burnout while maintaining a 24-hour operation. Consider the plight of time-zone crossing airline pilots and crews?

5 Taxation & Census – Reproductive Consciousness

- ✓ Whatever the effects are, they are arguably more pronounced since the 19th Century and before; wealthy people in previous centuries could be ‘night owls’ and party into the morning hours, but everyone else stuck to the daylight schedules and seasonal schedules until modern times brought cheap, reliable universal electricity. Modern interior lighting is beginning to take into effect light colors and intensities required for vision without disruption of circadian clocks; I remember a report just within the last two years (maybe in 2017?) that suggested that the bluish light used by cell phones, tablets, and readers – which many people use sitting in bed at night before going to sleep – disrupts or delays being able to get to sleep. In fact, even in my youth, watching television (which were CRT screens then) right before bed was discouraged.

²⁰ **Citation:** See for example, Stephanie Pappas, “What Was the First Life on Earth?” Live Science (livescience.com), March 1, 2017.

²¹ **Commentary & Citation:** Assortative mating has also been identified in plants – whose mating would seem most random of all – in the form of differing flowering schedules, i.e. if plant mating were truly random, all of the members of a species would flower at the same time to achieve maximum random assortment:

- ✓ “We focus on a hybrid zone population between the two closely related ash species *Fraxinus excelsior* L. (common ash) and *F. angustifolia* Vahl (narrow-leaved ash), which is composed of individuals of the two species and several hybrid types. This population is structured by flowering time: the *F. excelsior* individuals flower later than the *F. angustifolia* individuals, and the hybrid types flower in-between. Hybrids are scattered throughout the population, suggesting favorable conditions for their local adaptation. ... We detected a very high pollen immigration rate and a fat-tailed dispersal kernel, counter-balanced by slight phenological assortative mating and short-distance pollen dispersal. Early intermediate flowering hybrids, which had the highest male mating success, showed optimal sex allocation and increased selfing rates. We detected asymmetry of gene flow, with early flowering trees participating more as pollen donors than late flowering trees. ... This study provides striking evidence that long-distance gene flow alone is not sufficient to counteract the effects of assortative mating and selfing. Phenological assortative mating and short-distance dispersal can create temporal and spatial structuring that appears to maintain this hybrid population. The asymmetry of gene flow, with higher fertility and increased selfing, can potentially confer a selective advantage to early flowering hybrids in the zone. In the event of climate change, hybridization may provide a means for *F. angustifolia* to further extend its range at the expense of *F. excelsior*.” – Pierre R Gérard, Etienne K Klein, et al., “Assortative mating and differential male mating success in an ash hybrid zone population,” BMC Evolutionary Biology, November 15, 2006; the entire paper is available for free online.

²² **Commentary:** My mother at a time in my youth was employed by Greek families who sent their sons back to Greece to find ‘proper wives’; they would not allow their sons to marry American-born women. I am not certain if this also applied to their daughters, but it probably did. They also sent their wealth back to banks in Greece.

- ✓ Not coincidentally, there are videos on YouTube currently complaining about the amount of money remitted (“remittances”) by immigrants working in the United States to relatives in foreign countries. So this is not a new subject. The tone of the videos makes their nationalistic, ethnic, anti-immigration intent obvious.

²³ **Citation:** “Nonrandom mating occurs in plants when there is inbreeding or assortative mating. The consequence of nonrandom mating is that population genotype frequencies do not exist in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Although nonrandom mating does not directly drive evolutionary change – meaning allele frequencies are not altered – it can have a profound effect on genotype frequencies and hence can indirectly affect evolution. There are three main ways for nonrandom mating to occur. First, positive assortative mating results when individuals and their mates share one or more phenotypic characteristics with themselves. Negative assortative mating occurs when individuals and their mates are dissimilar phenotypically. Inbreeding is a third form of nonrandom mating that occurs when individuals mate with relatives more often than would be expected by chance. For both inbreeding and assortative mating, genes combine in such a way that offspring genotypes differ from those that are predicted by the most basic population genetic model, described by the Hardy-Weinberg theorem. One assumption of the Hardy-Weinberg theorem, which predicts unchanging equilibrium values for genotype and allele frequencies, is that individuals mate at random. Unlike other violations of this model (such as natural selection, genetic drift, mutation), nonrandom mating affects genotype but not allele frequencies.” – Plant Life (<http://lifeofplant.blogspot.com/2011/03/nonrandom-mating.html>), “Nonrandom Mating,” retrieved January 12, 2019.