

INGENUITY & INNOVATION: A REVIEW

To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything. —Anatole France

REENGINEERING INGENUITY—For centuries, theologians, philosophers, politicians, historians, and scientists have been unsuccessful in solving the greatest riddle of our time. Who or what created us? Despite our technological know-how and acquired wisdom, a unifying answer to the above question remains as mysterious as who built the Egyptian Sphinx. Although we may not reach the same conclusion as to how we came into being, we can at least agree on one basic principal—ingenuity. Do you know that a spoonful of soil in the rain forest may contain over a billions bacteria? What do you think will happen to them when the rain stops and the soil dries out? The answer is obvious, most will cease to exist, and a few may live to see another day if they have the ability to withstand, adapt or escape their harsh environment. While the true face of the enigmatic force that created us and our universe remains hidden behind the vaulted universe, its footprints are identifiable and at hand.

The human population is expanding at a startling rate. China, with over a billion people, is in a mode of population control. Even with her strict implementation of the one child policy, the law of nature still defies the law of man. Her population continues to expand at an alarming rate. A renowned scientist once wrote that humans are creatures with “selfish genes.” These genes ensure not only our survival, but also the survival of our offspring. Thus, two dominant forces remain at war. The pivot point remains undefined as the pendulum swings left, pushing for propagation, and right, pushing for control.

So what are we to do if our population continues to expand, our resources continue to dwindle, and our needs continue to grow? What is America supposed to do as her citizens multiply, her streets crowded, her farmlands diminished, her forests dwindling, and her reserves emptying out? We certainly can’t stop reproducing. It is against our nature. But we can be creative in meeting some of our growing demands. The future may look brighter than we think.

We are at an expedited pace of reengineering technologies and our being. With our facts in check, when will we be able to move freely in the air or on land without our planes, our cars or our boats? It may be sooner than we think. We are living in a new era of medical research and technological innovation. Hybrid cars, alternative fuels, and nano-technology will shape the way we drive, work, and play. Vertical farms will one day occupy buildings and skyscrapers, and flying cars will occupy our airspace. A limited number are already in production. If we are moving at this rate, pretty soon we’ll be able to grow wings and fly. Impossible? Think again. If we can clone sheep, create babies from petri dishes, change gender, and transplant body parts from human to human and from animal to human, why would it be impossible to genetically engineer babies with wings? It’s not a matter of whether we can do it but when. Someday, we may even develop gills and swim freely among the dolphins and whales. By then, do we still call ourselves human or something else?



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