

The Power of Biology and Sacrifice: Dr. John C. Pulver

Even though it takes a village to raise a child in the eyes of some, who in the village can be compelled to have as their highest priority the socialization of just any child? Our highest manifestation of reaching intimately to those not biologically connected to us is through adoptions. Those who adopt do a great service to society and to their adopted children in that they provide stability when stability is not naturally provided, and love, care and socialization. They learn to love that which they have chosen to be connected to.

Despite the capacity of those who adopt, the power of creation cannot be separated from the ties which result from it; we own that which we create in a way different than when we encounter something someone else created. It is personal to us. We see the extension of our own inborn tendencies (good or bad), our strengths, talents, capacities and interests reflected in our own progeny. **We** have brought something forth and culture and society can identify where it came from, can hold us responsible for the maintenance of that which we now have; and if we could make society a living thing we could say that 'it' counts on this miniature biological connections within its broader sphere to operate in successful units in a state of independence. These family units provide contribution to the larger needs of the whole without becoming overly reliant on the whole for care- except in the case of it providing means for financial needs to be met.

Attachment: In the case of the female gender, biology provides a setting for great emotional connections through the process of pregnancy and the possibility of early nurturance through breast feeding. Erik Erikson's Eight Stages of Development supposes that the first stage from birth to 18 months is one in which Trust is established; there is a sense of who cares for needs, who we are attached to, who can we count on, where our safety lies in our environments, and a sense that we can consistency have our growing expectations met without abandonment. This is the essence of attachment, and our biological roots set up the laboratory from which we are launched. There is no confusion here. Though we may have others to pay attention to us, there is no question on our part who is actually our mother, and in traditional arrangements as the father joins in these connecting rituals a sense of identity is firmly established in the growing child. This unique and sustained identity can eventually spill over into positive effects for the larger society. That which we created propels us to sacrifice for its well-being and as responsibility for care is assumed by us this acts as a bonding agent between parent and child. This bonding releases the society from the burden of care for something which was not its own creation. Biology, then, creates a potential stability which when combined with actions of sacrifice results in a human being prepared to take its place among the workings of society.

The effect of sacrifice: Parallel with the influence of biology on the bonding process is that of sacrifice for what is loved or created. This involves a focus of time and energy which then becomes a shared history between one human being to another. There is increased interest in that which we invest in and we experience our personal powers to influence, provide and nurture the generation of the future and in this we embark on a journey with another human being that goes beyond the self. We come to love that which we pay attention to over time; intimacy, familiarity and memory bind us together. This reality provides the ingredients used in adoptive relationships, foster care, step-parenting, group homes and in the efforts to reach into the lives of neighbors and community members. As potentials grow into realities in the lives of those we

sacrifice for our sense of influence is heightened and we then bind ourselves in commitment to the unfolding future. This not only works for people, but also for projects and ideas, causes and various other kinds of loyalties that time is put into. This notion of sacrifice is such a part of our understanding of how relationships should work that there remains an unspoken expectation that giving will be a part of our exchange. Few of us expect to operate like a lone island in our relationships as we know there is at least something expected of us in the exchange.

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