



TRANSHUMANISM

GATEWAY TO A POST-HUMAN ERA

By Albert James Dager

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013, Barack Obama unveiled the “BRAIN” Initiative, described by the White House press office as “a bold new research effort to revolutionize our understanding of the human mind and uncover new ways to treat, prevent, and cure brain disorders like Alzheimer’s schizophrenia, autism, epilepsy, and traumatic brain injury.” (BRAIN stands for Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies.) The initial investment by the federal government is \$100 million.

While Obama touts the medical benefits of such breakthroughs, there is a more sinister side to this research. These noble goals mask the potential for a great evil as scientists grasp with the concept of transhumanism—the blending of human and animal DNA and, eventually, the melding of the human mind with supercomputers to give the illusion of immortality.

The World Transhumanist Association states on its website’s homepage:

Over the past few years, a new paradigm for thinking about humankind’s future has begun to take shape among some leading computer scientists, neuroscientists, nanotechnologists and researchers at the forefront of technological development. The new paradigm rejects a crucial assumption that is implicit in both traditional futurology and practically all of today’s political thinking. This is the assumption that the “human condition” is at root a constant. Present-day processes can be fine-tuned; wealth can be increased and redistributed; tools can be developed and refined; culture can change, sometimes drastically; but human nature itself is not up for grabs.

This assumption no longer holds true. Arguably it has never been true. Such innovations as speech, writ-

ten language, printing, engines, modern medicine and computers have had a profound impact not just on how people live their lives, but on who and what they are. Compared to what might happen in the next few decades, these changes may have been slow and even relatively tame. But note that even a single additional innovation as important as any of the above would be enough to invalidate orthodox projections of the future of our world.



“Transhumanism” has gained currency as the name for a new way of thinking that challenges the premiss [sic] that the human condition is and will remain essentially unalterable. Clearing away that mental block allows one to see a dazzling landscape of radical possibilities, ranging from unlimited bliss to the extinction of intelligent life. In general, the future by present lights looks very weird—but perhaps very wonderful—indeed.

Some of the possibilities that you will no doubt hear discussed in the coming years are quite extreme and sound

like science-fiction.¹

Yes, it does sound like science fiction, but it is no longer science fiction; it is an advanced form of genetic research that exists today, and is growing by leaps and bounds.

By rethinking human nature, transhumanists reject the Word of God out of hand. Yet they admit that an unforeseen consequence of their research could be the extinction of all intelligent life:

The risks are as enormous as the potential benefits. In addition to dangers that are already recognized (though

¹ “What is Transhumanism,” World Transhumanist Assoc., <http://www.transhumanism.org/resources/transhumanism.htm>.

perhaps inadequately counteracted?), such as a major military, terrorist or accidental disaster involving nuclear, chemical, viral or bacteriological agents, the new technologies threaten dangers of a different order altogether. Nanotechnology, for example, could pose a terrible threat to our existence if obtained by some terrorist group before adequate defense systems have been developed. It is not even certain that adequate defense is possible. Perhaps in a nanotechnological world offense has a decisive intrinsic advantage over defense. Nor is it farfetched to assume that there are other risks that we haven't yet been able to imagine.²

One gets the impression that these hugely intelligent scientists are nothing more than children playing with matches. They hope to achieve something beautiful, but may end up burning down the house in the process.

Transhumanists are projecting that their goals will be largely achieved, not in 1,000 years, 100 years, or even 50 years, but within the next couple of decades. Some are not so optimistic, suggesting that they may be realized within 70 years at the outside.

Immortality

A goal of transhumanism is the uploading of human consciousness into a virtual reality.

If we could scan the synaptic matrix of a human brain and simulate it on a computer then it would be possible for us to migrate from our biological embodiments to a purely digital substrate (given certain philosophical assumptions about the nature of consciousness and personal identity). By making sure we always had back-up copies, we might then enjoy effectively unlimited lifespans. By directing the activation flow in the simulated neural networks, we could engineer totally new types of experience. Uploading, in this sense, would probably require mature nanotechnology. But there are less extreme ways of fusing the human mind with computers. Work is being done today on developing neuro/chip interfaces. The technology is still in its early stages; but it might one day enable us to build neuroprostheses whereby we could "plug in" to cyberspace. Even less speculative are various schemes for immersive virtual reality—for instance using head-mounted displays—that communicate with the brain via our natural sense organs.³

What this means is that a person may have his consciousness uploaded into a computer through which he could virtually be immortal.

Magic

Brain-computer interfaces are already being produced by companies such as Emotiv Systems. Even though this is first-generation, the Emotiv's interface has been demonstrated to allow people to move objects with their minds connected to a computer merely by thinking of the object being moved. A practical demonstration of this can be seen in a video at www.emotive.com, where a man lifts a toy helicopter by thought while seated at his computer. Another application shows win-

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

dow blinds being closed by thinking of it. One may even affect objects on the computer itself through thought.

At this point, one must be sitting at a computer to accomplish this alteration of reality and seeming magic (a word used by the narrator, Tan Le). As the technology develops, will it be long before one can accomplish telekinesis without a physical computer, but with the brain being interfaced with a nanotechnologically enhanced minicomputer embedded in the skull?

These wondrous elements of transhumanism research may seem beneficial to mankind, but they are based on a flawed perception of human nature—that man is intrinsically good, and therefore his science and technology will be used ultimately for good.

Godhood

There is a spirituality behind the transhumanism movement which seeks to bring humanity into the state of godhood. The Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University (ASU) offers a series of Templeton Research Lectures under the heading, "Facing the Challenges of Transhumanism: Religion, Science, Technology. Among other transhumanist ideas, these lectures address the emergence theory relating to human development with the eventual prospect of immortality or, at the least, life extension to 1,000 years or more.

The Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict is part of the SOPHIA Project at ASU, which explores human spirituality and advances in consciousness and health. Spiritualist Resources, an organization that promotes communication with the spirit realm, including the dead, has on its website an appeal posted by The SOPHIA Project Entity Communications Study that is looking for participants who claim experiences in communications with spirit entities:

The first study in this project is the Entity Communications Study. The purpose of this study is to investigate the experiences of people who claim to channel or communicate with Deceased People, Spirit Guides, Angels, Other-Worldly Entities/Extraterrestrials, and/or a Universal Intelligence/God. The ultimate objective is to investigate if these communications can be validated under controlled conditions. This study will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase I: Experiential Review/Personality Baseline
- Phase II: Verification⁴

According to transhumanist Rachael Haywire (yes, that's her name), "Technology is the new LSD" which will lead to altered states of consciousness. She believes that melding the collective consciousness of mankind will create God. Says Haywire, "With the development of technology we can create gods ourselves, and have something to believe in....We are creating idols through avatars—new identities on-line."⁵

The idea of bringing into one vast computerized system the knowledge and experiences of every human being to create a super intelligence is not new. But it was never possible before today. It is obvious that those proposing such a thing have no relationship

⁴ <http://www.spiritualistresources.com/cgi-bin/links/index.pl?read=69>

⁵ *Transhumanism, Recreating Humanity*, Jeremiah Films. (We offer this startling video is available through Sword Publishers.com.)

with the true God of creation. They wish to exalt humanity to the status of godhood in rebellion against the true God.

And it is necessary that governments fund these projects because they will require enormous sums of financial support that could not be borne by individuals or even corporations. That is why the BRAIN Initiative under Obama's administration is committing so much money to these projects.

An Underlying Motive

Yet as benign as the government's designs through the BRAIN Initiative sound, what is really driving the research into transhumanism is the arms race. A major aspect of Obama's BRAIN Initiative is the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which was established in 1958 to "prevent strategic surprise from negatively impacting U.S. national security and create strategic surprise for U.S. adversaries by maintaining the technological superiority of the U.S. military."⁶ DARPA uses diverse applications to apply multi-disciplinary approaches to the defense effort "in the fields of biology, medicine, computer science, chemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, material sciences, social science, neurosciences and more."

In the field of neuroscience, DARPA's Defense Sciences Office works to create a new form of "warfighter,"—soldiers whose mental and physical capabilities approach superhuman status. To achieve this it will be necessary to reprogram the "warfighter's" DNA to avoid stress and eliminate human emotions that would interfere with his ability to carry out his missions. As DARPA puts it:

By harnessing the capabilities of neuroscience and fusing them with cutting edge electronics and the social sciences, DSO is bringing a new level of efficiency and situational awareness to provide warfighters with reliable information, training and tools to execute their missions.⁷

By integrating robotics with the human body, the hope is to create a truly bionic man that will have superhuman strength and a superior mental capacity geared strictly toward killing.

Although it's true that many of the technological marvels we enjoy today came directly out of military research, what is planned for the future is a soulless killing machine that will be able to subdue all life on earth to the dictates of its superiors. Imagine a man that can run 60 miles per hour while possessing the strength of a bull and the predatory instincts of a lion.

That is the objective of transhumanism through the blending of animal DNA with human DNA. This is already being done with human DNA being transplanted into animals. Once a sufficient amount of human DNA and animal DNA is exchanged, the ultimate objective is to produce hybrid creatures whose physiological makeup will contain the best of both species. They would be animals that could think and even speak like humans or, conversely, humans that could exhibit the superior physical qualities of certain animals.

⁶ DARPA, "Creating & Preventing Strategic Surprise," www.darpa.mil/our_work/

⁷ DARPA, www.darpa.mil/Our_Work/DSO/Focus_Areas/Neuroscience.aspx.

The research into transhumanism would make Adolph Hitler blush at its audacity. If Hitler had at his disposal the scientific and technological achievements of today, he would have easily conquered the world. And that is the scary part for humanity. What if these scientific achievements were to fall into the hands of one whose evil surpassed even that of Hitler?

The Future of Mankind

What does this portend for the future of mankind, indeed for the entire creation?

Dr. Thomas Horn, writing for NewsWithViews.com, quotes former chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics, Leon Kass, in the introduction to his book, *Life Liberty and the Defense of Dignity: The Challenges of Bioethics*:

Human nature itself lies on the operating table, ready for alteration, for eugenic and psychic 'enhancement,' for wholesale redesign. In leading laboratories, academic and industrial, new creators are confidently amassing their powers and quietly honing their skills, while on the street their evangelists are zealously prophesying a posthuman future. For anyone who cares about preserving our humanity, the time has come for paying attention.

God's Word tells us of a coming ruler who is identified as anti-Christ. Hitler, Stalin and all other despots will pale in comparison to him for one simple reason: he will have genuine supernatural power behind him. If transhumanism is allowed by God to come to fruition, anti-Christ's will most certainly have at his disposal an army of cyborgs, possibly soulless individuals who will be killing machines programmed to carry out a terrible destruction upon God's people while enslaving all living in the territories he rules.

Scripture tells us of a religious figure who will arise and perform great wonders to cause mankind to worship the anti-Christ:

And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from the heavens onto the earth in the sight of men, and deceives those who dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles that he had power to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast that had the wound by a sword, and lived.

And he had power to give life to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell, except he who had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Here is wisdom: let him who has understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. And his number is six hundred, sixty-six. (Revelation 13:11-18)

Like most of man's technology, transhumanism will not be used for the benefit of the majority of mankind as much as for the benefit of rulers, in this case the ultimate despot. Some medical benefits will be realized, which will justify the continued research into transhumanism, but the final disposition of its accomplishments will be used to delude mankind into believing that the great wonders performed by the false prophet on behalf of the anti-Christ are proof of divine intervention, regardless to which god one may adhere. A superhuman hybrid commanding an army of superhuman hybrids will have no match on earth.

Something to consider: we are told that anti-Christ will muster all the armies of the world to battle against the Lord Jesus when He returns to establish His Kingdom on the earth. One might wonder how members of the military, particularly the military of the United States, would think they could successfully defeat the Lord. But if the military under anti-Christ is composed of cyborg hybrids that lack human souls, would it not be suited for such a battle?

Admittedly, at this stage we can offer only conjecture on how all this will play out. Would God even allow such things to happen? Does man even have the capability of making it happen?

When mankind was in the process of building the Tower of Babel, God looked down on their handiwork and said, "Look! The people are one, and they all have one language, and this they begin to do. And now nothing that they have imagined to do will be restrained from them" (Genesis 11:6-8).

With the advance in communications technology over the past century, man has come together as one again. From the time of Adam's fall men have sought to be like God. And that is what many of the transhumanism proponents are looking forward to.

Jesus told His disciples that the last days before He returns would be as it was in the days of Noah (Luke 17:26). Genesis 6:1-5 relates the following:

And it happened, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair, and they took themselves wives of all that they chose.

And YHWH said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh, yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years."

There were giants in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. The same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

And YHWH saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Only Noah found favor in God's eyes, and for two reasons: 1) he was righteous; 2) he was perfect in his generations.

Mankind had become corrupted not only spiritually, but physically through the hybridization of angels committing fornication with women. That is why every last man, woman and child, as well as all the air-breathing animals, had to be destroyed. Why the animals? We are not told, but knowing the secret knowledge that fallen angels conveyed to man through the mystery religions, it's possible that even the animal kingdom had become corrupted sufficiently to require a new beginning.

Many deny that the giants who lived at the time of Noah and afterward were the offspring of angels co-habiting with human women, but there are other evidences to demonstrate otherwise:

And the angels that did not keep their principality, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day, even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in the same way, giving themselves over to fornication and going after alien flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 6-7)

Jude puts the sin of these fallen angels in the class of fornication and going after alien flesh. Scripture reveals that these offspring were of huge size. Goliath was some 9 to 11 feet tall. Og, the king of Bashan had an iron bed that was at least 13 feet long and seven feet wide.

Because they had again corrupted mankind up to a point, particularly in the realm of the land given to Israel, God commanded Israel to kill every man, woman and child, and, again, all the livestock.

Those angels are kept in chains until the final judgment, so they will not be producing any hybrid entities as before. But man is trying to create hybrids that will be able to breed naturally with animals. Is that not similar to the condition of mankind at the time of Noah—the hybridization of the human race?

Our Part

I realize that this is shocking news to most believers, simply because the churches are ignoring the evil that is coming upon this generation. They are too taken with feel-good religion. But the day is coming when the Body of Christ will be faced with the most terrible persecution the world has ever seen. If we are not prepared spiritually for what is coming we will be victims of the great delusion that, if it were possible, would deceive even the very elect (Matthew 24:24).

It is imperative that we get our houses in order and that we warn our brethren of the dangers on the horizon. Unspeakable evil is about to be unleashed upon the world.

Yet we must not allow fear to overtake us. Whatever the future, even if we are destined for the sword, our trust is in our eternal salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Death is not so terrible when the alternative is worse. Would we want to live in a world that is being planned for mankind by science and technology under the auspices of Satan?

Let us go into the night with the light of God's Word illuminating our path to righteousness and calm assurance of our blessed hope in the resurrection to eternal life as planned by God, and not man. ❖