

## PART II

### **IS SCIENCE ALWAYS OUR BEST ALLY? (Even from the Moral and Intellectual Murderers of Society?)**

‘Modern science is our best ally’ is a favourite saying that Theosophists are fond of quoting from *The Mahatma Letters* and not without good reason.<sup>1</sup> In Part I we presented an emerging picture in science that seemed to uphold this saying. Here, in Part II, we present a sombre counterbalancing picture.

#### **Are Men Being Turned Into Machines?**

At our inaugural weekend of the Theoversity – Director of Studies Project in November 2006, Patrick Dixon spoke on Materialistic Science and Esoteric Science: Implications for the Soul. Drawing mainly upon the Steiner teachings he said that there are darkly controlling forces, Ahrimanic in nature, that are bent upon transforming Man into a kind of super-machine displaying a mind quality that is ultra-brilliant in the intellectual, analytical number-crunching sense, but more akin to a computing mechanism than one imbued with intelligence and human wisdom. Indeed has Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain said as much. In her addresses to schools and in her latest book<sup>2</sup>, she predicts that with invisible and ubiquitous computers embedded even in our clothing, virtual reality and augmented reality may erode our individual sense of reality. Increasing knowledge about brain circuitry will enable direct tampering with our individuality as will the prospect of gene therapy and drugs to manipulate our innate nature and moods.<sup>3</sup> We are promised what she terms a ‘virtual realm of “dreams and shadows” [in which] the notion of our individual self may, in fact, be obliterated entirely.’

That Patrick Dixon’s statement is being borne out with ever-alarming rapidity is no hyperbole as the following account from the high citadel of science will amply demonstrate.

#### **The Science and Ethics of Biological Enhancement**

I recently attended a meeting of the Fellows of the Royal Institution. This was a black-tie event hosted by Baroness Greenfield and invariably attended by the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Institution, though not on this particular occasion. The speaker was meant to be the supermarket billionaire, Lord Sainsbury, Science Minister for the Government, but he declined at the last minute and was replaced by Professor Julian Savulescu. The prestigious nature of this event and the high accolades pertaining to the speaker are important to bear in mind for what follows.

Julian Savulescu is qualified in medicine, bioethics and analytic philosophy. He holds the Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford, is the Founder and Director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and is Director of the Program on Ethics and the New Biosciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School, University of Oxford.<sup>4</sup> The Centre is devoted to research, education and stimulating open public discussion around ethical issues especially related to technological advancement. He is also head of the Melbourne-Oxford Stem Cell Collaboration, devoted to examining the ethical implications of cloning and embryonic stem cell research. He is editor of the prestigious *Journal of Medical Ethics*, and author of over a hundred articles in medical journals such as the *British Medical Journal*, *Lancet*, and ethics journals such as the *American Journal of Bioethics*.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter No. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Greenfield, *Tomorrow’s People*, Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> These ideas were disseminated at the Royal Institution lectures on 30 September and 3 October 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Previously he was Director of the Ethics of Genetics Unit at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute in Melbourne. He was also Director of the Bioethics Program at the Centre for the Study of Health and Society at the University of Melbourne and the Chair of the Department of Human Services, Victoria, Ethics Committee.

Professor Savulescu's address to the Fellows of the Royal Institution was on his especial expertise of biological enhancement (enhancing human faculties and capabilities through biological intervention-technology). I will present a representative cross section of his address (not necessarily in the order in which he presented it) and outline the salient features of his message to us. To my perception he displayed a mind quality of diamond precision-tool brilliance with facts and statistical figures given out at top speed.

### ***Salient Features of Professor Savulescu's Speech***

Early on in the speech we were shown a slide of a white rabbit, and then the same rabbit appearing luminescent by virtue of chemical or genetic intervention. If my memory serves me, we were informed that we humans could also so appear luminous by biological intervention. Now how about a beach holiday, and here my recall is perfect. Whilst sunbathing on, say, an Australian beach, why bother with a sun shade or protective creams to guard against ultra-violet radiation? Why not instead change the pigment of your skin by genetic engineering – a distinct possibility. Then followed a slide of a half dozen or so faces of dogs of different breeds, therefore very different facial shapes and colours. Professor Savulescu told us that we were no different really from dogs and we could change our faces and bodies as with the dogs in the picture. Indeed he followed this with a picture of a human head and the shape it could potentially be made to appear by such means – as indeed science could improve our IQ, enhance our performance in sport and change our moods.

Passing reference was made to the role of genetic engineering as a medical tool for treating degenerative and other diseases. En passant we were proudly informed about how science has succeeded in cloning a sheep with a goat.

Not surprisingly, achieving sexual gratification formed the core of his vision for the future *happiness* of a biologically enhanced humanity. Professor Savulescu put up a slide of some half dozen naked female breasts (all looking perfectly normal to my inexperienced eye) and then showed us pictures of how we could alter our breast shapes entirely to suit our desires. There was also talk of changing male genitalia to suit our fancy and I seem to recall a slide about how the male posterior could be made to look according to our whim. But on this topic I am absolutely clear: a slide with some ten bullet points on the benefits of Viagra explaining its benefits in attaining and maintaining super-orgasms. (In an article for the Times newspaper a few months earlier he starkly asserts his conviction that human beings should, and would be born by cloning in order to be in control over destiny and nature, but that 'sex will continue to occur – but for pleasure, not reproduction'. In this article he also states that 'to label the creation of a clone an affront to human dignity is like saying creating a black person is an affront to human dignity'. This is perhaps the most bizarre example of '*practical logic*' that I have ever come across.)<sup>5</sup> Indeed the orgasm-intensifying contribution that science could bequeath to us was a key note of Professor Savulescu's message. No better proof of this than this message on one of his slides: 'genes, not men, increase the female pleasure'. (To preserve my sanity, I refrain from comment upon this piece of scientific lewdness.) His closing theme was that all of this scientific effort was not only for us to be in control over our lives, nor just so as not to be the victims of nature or so-called god, but ultimately, in order that we may become happier as human beings.

### **Some Personal Reflections on Professor Savulescu's Speech**

What has *practical ethics* to do with all this? Is ethics being used as a manipulative garb to camouflage activities that are anything but ethical, let alone practical? Is it ethical to justify wholesale experiments on animals under the thin veneer of medical research when other, non-invasive techniques are available?<sup>6</sup> I meekly opine that if Julian Savulescu had experienced even a fleeting

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<sup>5</sup> The Times Higher, 6 May, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> A prime example is the Dr Hadwen Trust. It is the UK's leading medical research charity that funds and promotes exclusively non-animal research techniques to replace animal experiments. Such techniques include

moment of true love or communion with nature, music or art, he might perhaps be less obsessed with advertising soulless sexual gratification – the bestial, counterfeit coin of genuine love – in Beethoven’s words, ‘Sensual enjoyment without a union of soul is bestial and will always remain bestial’.<sup>7</sup>

However this emphasis upon sexual gratification has, in my opinion, a much deeper and insidious purpose. It is a common human weakness that by getting a person (especially a man) to put his brains between his legs, his thinking faculty is softened and you can more easily mould him to your will.<sup>8</sup> So by offering a gullible public the bait of sexual ecstasy, their discriminating faculty and moral judgment are proportionately degraded by virtue of the focus of attention being switched from reasoning to titillation. When this happens you can slip in and win approval of ideas that would be morally unpalatable at first.

### *What is science’s essential message to us?*

What is the corpus of mainstream science saying? We can paraphrase its essential message (overt) and its methods (covert) thus:

**We’ll give you whatever you want (the overt message), and we’ll do this by always trying to keep you in a state of dissatisfaction with your lot, with your possessions, your ambitions and your bodies (the covert underlining). Do you want enhanced orgasms, better-looking breasts and a different skin colour? Of course you do, be honest. So, no problem. It will be yours. Naturally you want yourself or your child to have a higher IQ and excel in sport. Which parent wouldn’t? We’ll do it for you by biological engineering. However please don’t ask us about such things as acquiring serenity, patience, courage and wisdom because that all smacks of religious moralizing and science has no truck with such outmoded delusions like god. After all, our job is to use science, not only to give you what you want, not only so that you may have control over nature, not only so that you may control your own destiny, but ultimately, so that you may be happy by having all your desires satisfied (be they physical, sexual or intellectual).**

**And to accomplish this we will – in fact already are – conducting countless experiments upon hapless animals in our existing laboratories and those to be built, such as the animal research laboratory in Oxford now in an advanced stage of construction. After all, since we are no different from animals – our Darwin-inspired (obsessed?) scientists have proven this – they are our toys and playthings. Of course some of this vivisection is for medical research (and we have our own strong opinions on the necessity of such research as alternatives and complementary medicines are unscientific and a waste of time and money), but we see no reason why a lot of it should not be conducted in order to satisfy man’s vanity. We do not really agree with those who think that what man does to animals, man ultimately does to himself. That’s all airy-fairy philosophy put out by dreaming mystics who live in the nineteenth century and in any case we have no scientific proof of this other than anecdotal evidence such as in Word War II, which is now done and dusted.**

### *Does science then know what is best for us?*

Science in the main appears to have taken upon itself the right to pontificate upon what it considers to be the best interests of humanity. On this score the words of Robert Oppenheimer are most apposite. As he said in an interview on the twentieth anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, ‘We had

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advanced computer mapping and mathematical modelling of biological components such as cells and organs. Their vital work benefits humans with the development of more relevant and reliable science whilst also benefiting laboratory animals. The Dr Hadwen Trust is a registered charity established in 1970.

<sup>7</sup> Beethoven’s diary entry, 1815.

<sup>8</sup> One need hardly point out that this is a common technique used consciously or unconsciously in offices and factories where the workplace is garnished with indecent looking calendars, etc. to weaken the attention and critical faculty of those present.

known the sin of pride. We had the pride of thinking we knew what was good for man. This is not the natural business of a scientist.’

### ***Where will it all end?***

Take note of this crucial passage from Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, Act I, Scene 3: “But ‘tis strange:/ And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,/ The instruments of darkness tell us truths,/ Win us with honest trifles, to betray us/ In deepest consequence.”

### **How Do the Dark Forces Work?<sup>9</sup>**

Read again the truth of Shakespeare’s words just quoted and also recall the words of the apostle Paul about the intrigues of evil spirits ‘The rulers of darkness’ practising ‘spiritual wickedness in high places’. It is my personal conviction that the powers of darkness have now chosen to work through that medium which touches the lives of the greatest number of men on earth – scientific *materialism* (always to be distinguished carefully from ennobling science, per se). Their machinations are the age-old ways of winning our confidence with ‘honest trifles’ (better sex life, beautiful body, higher IQ, etc.) ultimately to betray us ‘in deepest consequence’, namely, our moral perdition. Readers may scoff at my construal of the contemporary scenario in *establishment* science and think my ideas are no more than exaggerated melodrama. However, let them take note of the lessons from mythology and history and judge for themselves. The lesson is ever one and worth repeating: that the evil powers will first lure their gullible victims along the path of self-injury initially by winning their confidence with a series of successful predictions of an earthly utopia or offerings of power and sensual gratification, and when this confidence has been well established and the bait eagerly swallowed, then to reveal their real intent by persuading their unhappy dupes to commit a final act which results in an overwhelming disaster.

Here a theosophical student has the great advantage of both added depth of insight, and the ability to cast his eyes over vast spans of time involving not just the historical periods of academic scholarship, but also the pre-historical epochs encoded in the world’s mythologies, allegories and legends – a closed book to the methods of archaeology and anthropology, but an open panorama to those with the clear vision of occultists such as H. P. Blavatsky. Let us therefore draw upon such faculties to demonstrate our case, bearing in mind ‘that no mythological story...has ever at any time been pure fiction [and] that every one of such narratives has an actual historical lining to it’.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore the function of mythology is to magnify and allegorize those processes and happenings in nature. What patterns can we discern? Several in number, but one essential theme all the way: the misuse of power going hand in hand with moral decline by appealing to man’s lower nature and baser instincts.

### **Will Man Ever Learn from the Lessons of History and Mythology?**

#### ***Lessons from mythology***

The Fourth Root Race – the Atlanteans – degenerated itself from a misuse of occult and psychic powers. This also happened during the latter stages of the great Egyptian civilization.

The eternal struggle between the forces of Darkness and Light, and the ultimate victory always of the latter, is perhaps best understood from a reading of the sublime Indian epic *Ramayana*, perhaps a symbolic tale of the destruction of Atlantis. This great poem is really a heroic historical tale permeated with mythology and must be understood at many levels of meaning. But for our purposes

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<sup>9</sup> For a full exposition on the nature and roots of evil the reader should consult Paul Brunton, *The Notebooks of Paul Brunton*, Vol. 7, Part 2, *The Negatives*. The author has based his premisses and inferences on the insights contained in the Notebook just cited.

<sup>10</sup> H. P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol II (Adyar 6 vol. edition), p. 15.

we learn from it of the vanquishing of Ravana, the Demon King of Lanka, by the Lord Rama in the Great Battle of Lanka. The war was brought about by Ravana's abduction of Sita, wife of the Lord Rama, and the ensuing combat was fought to win her back. Now Ravana had just about every physical and psychic weapon at his disposal and an intuitive reading of the Yuddha Kandam<sup>11</sup> strikes a chord with such things as nuclear power and biological weapons. Nonetheless, Ravana was eventually slain by the superior psychic-spiritual weapons of Rama; and Sita, who never succumbed to the lustful advances of Ravana during her captivity, was finally reunited with her lawful husband.

Now who, or what does Sita signify? The Spiritual Soul of Man (buddhi and higher manas) coeval with Nature, the garment of God. Indeed Sita is often referred to as the Goddess of Earth or as Mother Earth. Is not the message clear? Nature's secrets can never be acquired by extorting confessions from Her on the torture rack of scientific experimentation where millions of Her creatures suffer unbelievable horror and humiliation. Ultimately She will always be reunited with her partner – Spiritual Man – and divulge her secrets only to the deserving few who cooperate with Her processes with compassion towards all Her creations.

### *Lessons from history*

Nearer our time we have the unhappy spectre of dictatorship such as in Russia, Nazi Germany and several regimes post World War II.

Every dictator in history has risen to absolute power by the time-honored method of cunning control over the unthinking masses by way of offering them an earthly utopia: 'just follow me, don't ask questions and your life in the future will be a better one'. We should not reserve the notion of dictatorship exclusively to those tyrannical despots of totalitarian regimes working in the public gaze. Dictatorship appears in several guises. There are *intellectual dictators* aplenty in the scientific community and powerful scientists often working behind the scenes, wield unbelievable power, over the media, in politics, over multinational corporations (especially the oil and pharmaceutical industries) and in academic institutions. With totalitarian despots 'might is right'. With the scientific despots 'intellectual might' serves to justify their right to do anything from manipulating nature to hurting animals under the banner of 'research'.

### *Suppression of freedom of thought*

Another lesson we can learn is the methods used by totalitarian regimes to cast the mind of the entire nation into a desired mould such as by means of propaganda, censorship of philosophically-liberating books, and punishment of those whose free-thinking ideas and writings dared to stray from the party line.

We now have the same situation in principle in science, albeit more transparent and subtle. Granted that spiritually-minded scientists or those scientists whose ideas and demonstrable research run counter to the scientific party line are not physically cast in jail, yet their careers can be crucified, publications rubbished or ignored and their personalities vilified.<sup>12</sup> This is one way of controlling the public mind by starving them of spiritually elevating ideas that continue to flow from the considerable number of scientists working with great integrity on the frontiers of science and struggling to find a lone voice of approval or encouragement in the wilderness of materialistic orthodoxy. The irony of human suggestibility is such that where truth is most absent, the public are led to believe that it is most present; and when people start by disdaining reason, they end by accepting claptrap.

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<sup>11</sup> A readable account of the magnificent *Ramayana* prepared for the use of college students is by Swami Chidbhavananda, Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam, 1982.

<sup>12</sup> For several examples of this in contemporary science see Edi D. Bilimoria, *The Snake and the Rope*, Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, 2006.

Then there is the control of mind not just by the science-controlled media but by electronic machines. An area of active research, supposedly for economic benefit, it is largely done without conscience and devoid of ethics – the modern equivalent of ancient Black Magic, sorcerers using twenty-first century science.

It is a hallmark of a degenerating age that genuine truth seekers and light bringers are labeled as frauds and the real frauds and preachers of a mad materialism are worshipped as the prophets of their age. The unselfish are vilified and the selfish are immortalized. But deluded materialist – calling themselves scientists – serve a vital function, indeed play a part in the overall and grand cosmic scheme of progressive spiritual unfoldment.

### **So Is Science Then Our Best Ally After All?**

So from all this it would seem that with the collective kama-manas of establishment science running headlong towards *anoia* in an ecstatic state of intellectual stupor, science is anything *but* our best ally. But wait! Let early theosophical history be our guide.

#### ***Why proof can never be spewed out into the world at large***

A. P. Sinnett was the editor of the Pioneer newspaper in India and the recipient of Letters from the Masters.<sup>13</sup> Having repeatedly received ample and tangible proof of the genuineness of Blavatsky's occult powers and the existence of the Masters, Sinnett figured out a plan for providing the world and the scientific community at large with what he reckoned would be unassailable evidence about the reality of occult phenomena. His idea was to show that the Pioneer newspaper could be delivered in London by occult means on the same day of its publication in India. However the Master severely warned him thus about the folly of displaying of occult phenomena to an unprepared public:

*'I beg to say that if the people believed the thing true they would kill you before you could make the round of Hyde Park; if it were not believed true, the least that could happen would be the loss of your reputation.'*

*One the one hand Science would find itself unable (in its present state) to account for the wonders given in its name, and on the other the ignorant masses would still be left to view the phenomenon in the light of a miracle; everyone who would thus be made a witness to the occurrence [of occult phenomena] would be thrown off his balance and the results would be deplorable.'*<sup>14</sup>

The gist of this is that occult secrets are priceless pearls, but immensely dangerous in the hands of the selfish who would use such powers to further their own ends. Scientific materialism thus effectively shields the Theosophical Society and the esoteric doctrines from those who are unqualified to use the wisdom with complete altruism for the benefit of humanity. Hence the opposition of establishment science towards the esoteric sciences could well be part of a larger cosmic necessity, guarding against the premature disclosure of matters that humanity as whole is yet, unfitted to receive. In its antagonism, science perhaps is saving the world from the appalling disasters which would result, both to the individual and to the race, from the selfish misuse of occult forces, (compared to which the horrors of Hiroshima and other weapons of technologically-driven mass destruction would appear as mere toys).

So it is the old adage of not casting pearls before swine. In Blavatsky's own words:

*'Occult philosophy divulges few of its most important vital mysteries. It drops them like precious pearls, one by one, far and wide apart, and only when forced to do so by the evolutionary tidal wave*

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<sup>13</sup> Letters from the Masters were also received by W. Q. Judge, C. W. Leadbeater and Annie Besant, to name but a few others. However Sinnett was undoubtedly the chief recipient.

<sup>14</sup> *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, Third and revised edition, Letter No. 1.

*that carries on humanity slowly...For once out of the safe custody of their legitimate heirs and keepers, those mysteries cease to be occult: they fall into the public domain and have to run the risk of becoming in the hands of the selfish – of the Cains of the human race – curses more often than blessings.*<sup>15</sup>

Accordingly, by manufacturing plastic pearls (namely, the ego-flattering promise of gratifying every desire of the lower nature), ‘biologically enhancing’ science ensures that the ‘swine’ of selfish man, will gobble up these imitation pearls by mistake, leaving the true, sacred gems (the deep occult secrets) safely in the hands of their legitimate guardians. Scientific materialism thus effectively ensures that occult pearls would *not* be cast before swine, to take up again the famous Biblical saying.

### **A Possible Way Forward**

We cannot hope to change into compassionate, god-fearing and animal-loving people, the Dawkinses and Savulescus of this world, the likes of whom in her day Blavatsky might well have referred to as the ‘intellectual and moral murderers of future generations’;<sup>16</sup> but what we can do *is to build upon the intelligence and especially the ‘compassion quotient’ of the public and society in order to render the latter less gullibly susceptible to the manoeuvrings of the former.* This could perhaps be one way of applying Christ’s message ‘to resist not evil’. In similar vein the modern sage Paul Brunton has said that it is useless to attempt to batter science for it is here with us to stay. What we can and should do is to follow Brunton’s advice: to enter the scientific camp and raise it to a higher metaphysic; in other words to attempt to transmute alchemically the *intellectual filth* that now abounds into a nobler intuitional impulse. In a general sense I feel that organizations like the *Scientific and Medical Network* and the science sections of the *Theosophical Society* are working along these lines against overwhelming odds.

### **Postlude**

So to close, yes, even in this seemingly perverse sense, science is indeed our best ally because:

- ◆ Progressive science is certainly bringing the enlightened sections of humanity closer to the occult doctrines by showing how ‘Science is honeycombed with metaphysical conception’<sup>17</sup>; however the public, governments and the media are still in the vicious grip of –
- ◆ Darkly materialistic science – establishment science in the main – which, unbeknown to itself, deflects public attention away from occult secrets and hence serves to veil such secrets from dreadful misuse by the ‘Cains of the human race’.

But that being the case, we are still painfully reminded of this poignant passage from the Mahatma M:

*‘One or two of us hoped that the world had so far advanced intellectually, if not intuitionally, that the occult doctrine might gain an intellectual acceptance, and the impulse given for a new cycle of occult research. Others – wiser as it would now seem – held differently.’*

If, then, the kind of science and unbalanced technology described in this paper is anything to go by, we must see that the intellectual climate in mainstream (we again stress, *mainstream*<sup>18</sup>) science, viewed as a whole, is anything but mature for there to be a new wave of advancements in occult research and so, unhappily, we are bound to concur with the Mahatma’s pronouncements of over one

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<sup>15</sup> H. P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol II (Adyar 6 vol. edition), p. 281-2.

<sup>16</sup> *ibid.* Vol. IV (Adyar 6 vol. edition), p. 222.

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.* Vol. II (Adyar 6 vol. edition), p. 268.

<sup>18</sup> Orthodox or establishment science are virtual synonyms as also used in this paper depending on the context.

hundred years ago. For we can trace a line of connection between pioneer scientists like Newton and Galileo to the work of atomic scientists like Oppenheimer and Einstein. Hiroshima's horrors – and the likely future horrors of genetic manipulation – are evidence of what men have done to the fine things entrusted to them.<sup>19</sup> No Saviour will undo such misdeeds for unregenerate man is the ubiquitous spawner of the ugliness around him, and the responsibility for this lies squarely with man; and when man obstinately rejects guidance by knowledge of the higher laws governing mankind and succumbs to a science which largely serves politics, money and power, then the dangers to the human race are very real. Under such circumstances there can be no question of unveiling occult secrets to the masses for the reasons explained above.

In *The Secret Doctrine* Blavatsky tells us that unless science lifts the veil and strains its neck to see beyond, and until science blends physics with metaphysics, then regarding their various theories on cosmos:

*'It is easy for an astronomer, if endowed with an imaginative faculty, to build a theory of the emergence of the universe out of chaos, by simply applying to it the principles of mechanics. But such a universe will always prove, with respect to its scientific human creator, a Frankenstein's monster; it will lead him into endless perplexities. The application of the mechanical laws only can never carry the speculator beyond the objective world; nor will it unveil to men the origin and final destiny of Kosmos.'*<sup>20</sup>

Alas! What with all the genetic engineering<sup>21</sup> now occurring and planned for the future, the notion of a Frankenstein monster is rapidly becoming (indeed may already have become) a stark reality, albeit not just in astronomy. The cloning of Dolly the sheep, a cloned racehorse from a castrated racing champion<sup>22</sup> and the very recent production of hybrid animal/human embryos may well be promising steps in just this direction.

**We have offered to exhume the primeval strata of man's being, his basic nature, and lay bare the wonderful complications of his inner Self... and to demonstrate it scientifically. The men of science have but to reap where we have sown. It is our mission to plunge and bring the pearls of Truth to the surface; theirs – to clean and set them into scientific jewels. And, if they refuse to touch the ill-shapen oyster-shell, insisting that there is [not], nor cannot be any precious pearls inside it, then shall we once more wash our hands of any responsibility before humankind.**

**If, for generations we have 'shut out the world from the Knowledge of our Knowledge,' it is on account of its absolute unfitness; and if, notwithstanding proofs given, it still refuses yielding to evidence, then will we at the End of this cycle retire into solitude and our kingdom of silence once more.**

*The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, Third and revised edition, Letter No. 9.

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<sup>19</sup> Essentially a revelation from God. In another sense we can also trace a line of connection between Jesus's gospel – a message from God – and the terrors of the Inquisition.

<sup>20</sup> H. P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol II (Adyar 6 vol. edition), p. 319.

<sup>21</sup> Perhaps, 'vanity engineering' or 'ego-appeasing engineering' would be a better term.

<sup>22</sup> The Times Higher, 6 May, 2005.