

Chapter Seven

Three minutes later, Charles Robinson and his guest were back. The first part of the interview had run for a long time, and now the second part was about to begin. The two men seemed more relaxed. On the table in front of each of them there was a mug of what I assumed was either coffee or tea.

“Dr. Johns, thank you for giving us so much of your time,” said Robinson.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to your viewers. I wonder why you’ve done it. You clearly don’t approve of my views.”

“That’s very perceptive of you. I think they’re abhorrent, dehumanizing. But the role of my program is to inform and educate. I believe the formation of the American Identity Party and its association with the Church of Natural Humanism poses a serious threat to American society, especially because you provide an educated ideological voice. I believe that the more you are allowed to operate under the cloak of darkness, the greater the danger you pose. I’m not afraid that millions of my viewers will flock to your banner. They’re too intelligent for that. I want them to know about the goals of your movement and make sure they are never realized.”

Johns shrugged. “Fair enough. But you’d be surprised by the extent of our support, not only from the grass roots, but also from people at the highest levels of society, people with deep pockets.”

“I’m not saying you’re not dangerous, Dr. Johns, just misguided. People are more than glorified animals. In any case, let’s move on. This is an interview, not a debate.”

“By all means. You have more questions?”

“I do.”

“Fire away.”

“Let’s talk about social services. Are you in favor of Medicare?”

“Not as it’s constituted. If people want Medicare, they should squirrel away after-tax money all their working lives in special accounts. Those accounts would be used for their medical care when they retire. The rest of society should not have to pay the medical bills of some decrepit old folks.”

“I see. How about food stamps for disabled people?”

“Against it. If they can’t survive on their own or with the help of their friends and family, they should just be allowed to expire. Again, I point you to the natural world. The old and the sick go off to die.”

“What about women? Are you in favor of women’s rights?”

“Absolutely. Women should have the vote, just like men. They should have the bulk of the responsibility of child rearing, as we find in the natural world. The females protect and care for the children, and the males forage for food. Otherwise, they are equal, depending on their physical and intellectual strength, as I explained before.”

“What about gay rights?”

“Gay and other alternate lifestyles are unnatural. They do not appear in the natural world, and if they do, they are extremely rare. I don’t think we should discriminate against gays. They should be allowed the right to vote, but considering that they weaken the species and reduce procreation, the majority heterosexuals should not allow them to promote their lifestyles in the schools and by pride parades.”

“Do you think gayness is a choice? Or does it occur naturally?”

“Are you asking if I think there is a gay gene, Mr. Robinson?”

“Yes, that’s what I’m asking.”

“I don’t really think it’s a choice for most gays, but there is no gay gene. Gayness is a condition caused by environmental factors, sometimes at a very early age. Something happens that subconsciously causes people to channel their sexuality in the direction of their own gender, such as in prisons. I don’t blame the gays for being gay, but they should not promote

gayness to the rest of society. The promotion itself can cause gayness.”

“How can you be so sure that there is no gay gene?”

“Evolutionary biology proves it. The survival of the fittest. All evolutionary biologists agree that the definition of the fittest is those most capable of passing on their genes to the next generation. Therefore, I would think that gays are the least fit and that they should have been eliminated by evolution. And yet, they’re still here in pretty much the same percentages as always. That tells me that environmental factors cause their condition.”

“I think many scientists would dispute that assumption, but let me just clarify. You would not revoke their citizenship?”

“I would not, nor would I criminalize gay behavior. I would just restrict them from actively promoting their lifestyles.”

“It sounds like you’re a Darwinist. Is that compatible with your belief in creation? Did God create the species?”

“God created the primordial world and set it into motion by a process of evolution. Everything developed on its own.”

“So did God know that human beings would emerge?”

“Of course. Human beings are the crowning achievement of the creation process. God is very smart. He knew what would result.”

“But how could He know what mutations would emerge randomly?”

“Look, you said that I sound like a Darwinist, but really, I’m not. I don’t believe that random mutations are responsible for all the variety of life on earth. We can talk about this until we’re blue in the face, but we have to admit that Darwinism is a theory, not a fact proven scientifically by experimentation and prediction. The mathematics is problematic.”

“So if you’re not a Darwinian, what are you?”

“I’m a Lamarckian. Are you familiar with the name, Mr. Robinson?”

“Yes, I am. His ideas were discredited.”

“Well, I beg to differ. For the benefit of your viewers, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck was a French scientist who lived about fifty years before Darwin. He suggested that certain acquired characteristics could sometimes be

passed down. His ideas were rejected because there was no genetic mechanism for it. But they didn't know about DNA in the eighteenth hundreds. Now we know that the DNA of a human being and the DNA of a chimpanzee are ninety percent identical. The differences depend on which switches are turned on and which are turned off. It's possible that external stimuli cause switches to be turned on or off, resulting in permanent hereditary changes. This is more logical than Darwinism, at least to me."

"So what is your point?"

"God can compute from the very beginning what changes will be coming through Lamarckian evolution even though He is not directly involved with the world. The pinnacle of evolution is the human being, as I said before. But we are still part of the animal kingdom, and we are completely on our own. It's all about survival. Anything goes."

"I understand what you're saying, Dr. Johns. As I said before, I completely disagree, but I'm not here to debate you." Robinson took off his glasses and polished them. "One final question. Most of the members of the American Identity Party and those you hope to recruit in the future were raised as Christians. They self-identify as Christians. Will you be able to wean them away from Christianity and get them to join the Church of Natural Humanism?"

"It won't be as hard as you think, Mr. Robinson. They were only Christian in name. I assure you that our members, angry, frustrated and heavily armed, are not inclined to turn the other cheek. Every single member of the American Identity Party has already taken the pledge of Natural Humanism. And for every one of them, there are a hundred more ready to do the same. The time has come."